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## Solid 2016 water park season should carry into WWA show

AT: Pam Sherborne

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NEW ORLEANS, La. — The 2016 World Waterpark Association (WWA) annual convention may be located in "The Big Easy," but educational sessions offered during the show will feature some of the hardest and most challenging elements of operating a water park.

But it won't be all work for WWA members and attendees during this year's event, set for October 11-14, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

WWA officials are expecting a strong, enthusiastic turnout for this year's show.

"This year's educational program, combined with our fantastic location, promises to deliver a one-of-a-kind experience for attendees," said Rick Root, WWA president. "We continue to focus on evolving our WWA Show offerings to better assist our members in safely growing their businesses and enhancing their guest experience."



ing their guest experience."

Along with the educational program, the convention also presents a trade show and supplies ample networking opportunities.

The WWA trade show, set for 12:30-6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, and 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday Oct. 13, offers a variety of exhibitors showing off their latest as well as their tried and true. Product displays include waterslides, river rides, surf simulators, uniforms, theming elements, safety products, food and

beverage, coatings, chemicals, filtration, admissions, and outdoor furniture and design.

Networking opportunities include times in between sessions, buffet lunches on the trade show floor, the Annual Golf Tournament & Golfers' Luncheon (set for the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 11), the Annual Reunion Party (set for Wednesday evening), and Pat O's The River Party (set for Thursday evening).

Even though set dates for the annual convention are Oct. 11-14, there are all-day courses offered on Sunday, Oct. 9, and Monday, Oct. 10. These include the Aquatic Facility Operator Certification Course and the Certified Pool Operator Certification Course, which both begin on Sunday and wrap up Monday.

The Ellis Lifeguard Instructor Licensing Program is a three-day course beginning that Sunday, running through Monday and wrapping up Tuesday afternoon.

The American Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructor

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## 2016 WWA convention marks changing of the chairmen

Outgoing chair: Mark Moore

NEW ORLEANS, La. — **Mark Moore**, general manager of **Gulf Islands Waterpark**, in Gulfport, Miss., will become past chair of the World Waterpark Association (WWA) at the end of October.

Having sat as chair for the past two years (WWA chairs serve a two-year term), Moore was involved in numerous WWA undertakings, including technological improvements to better meet member needs.

And, on a personal level, he observed the strong kinship between members. He watched as they shared their joys as well as their hardships.

Here, he shares some specific experiences with AT.

**What are some WWA accomplishments made over the last two years?**

During my time as the chair of the WWA's board of directors, the association has focused on a variety of initiatives, including launching a new and improved industry website, expanding our regional member gatherings through the Member Meet-Up program and championing the Model Aquatic Health Code's revision process by being active participants in the

► See MOORE, page 6



Moore

Incoming chair: Steve Miklosi

NEW ORLEANS, La. — **Steve Miklosi**, general manager of **The Breakers Waterpark — Breakers 95 L.L.C.**, in Marana, Ariz., will take over as chair of the World Waterpark Association (WWA), beginning a two-year Nov. 1.

He will take over the reins from Mark Moore, Gulf Islands Waterpark, Gulfport, Miss., who now becomes past chair for the next two years.

As a long-time member of the WWA, Miklosi is excited about the opportunity to give something back.

Here, he shares some of those ideas with AT.

**What are your goals as incoming chair?**

I believe that my goals will remain consistent with that of the organization. We will continue to offer the best waterpark-specific education program on the planet, both in person at the annual show and through our online learning opportunities.

We will also continue to promote and support our drowning prevention initiative, the World's Largest Swimming Lesson event. Safety is the most important thing we do as operators in this industry. Having shared our Swimming Lesson Save Lives message with more than half a billion people around the world, we know that we've already accomplished a lot with this event.

► See MIKLOSI, page 6



Miklosi





**Aqualand Costa**  
Adeje, Spain



**The Land Of legends Theme Park**  
Antalya, Turkey



**Serra Palace**  
Antalya, Turkey



**Vinpearl**  
Nha Trang, Vietnam



**Oasis Waterpark**  
Izmir, Turkey



**CN Amazone Waterpark**  
Pattaya, Thailand

**EXPERIENCE  
THE INNOVATION**

We are pleased to invite you to **WWA Show**.  
**Come and meet us!**

**OCTOBER 12-13 BOOTH #217-318**









# NEWSTALK

## MAILBAG

### Inaugural AIMS Safety Award winner gives thanks

To the Editor,

Thanks AIMS International for this award and for all the work you do to enhance expertise and safety in the amusement industry. Thanks also to all the people I have worked with over the last 38 years. People who mentored me, supported me and worked with me. They all share the values that make guest and employee safety a top priority and a moral obligation in our industry. These are the people with whom I share the inaugural AIMS Safety Award.

Also, a special thanks to Larry Cochran, my boss for many years, who encouraged me to get involved; and Betty Lynn, my wife and soulmate for 52 years; who attended almost every AIMS, ASTM and IAAPA meeting I attended. She often went to meetings and took notes because I was in a different meeting.

Without all these people, my career and this award would not have been possible.

Thanks all,

**T. Harold Hudson**

AAPRA and retired, Six Flags Theme Parks  
aapra1@aol.com

*Editor's note: AIMS International presented Harold Hudson with its first Annual AIMS Safety Award during the 2016 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony held Sept. 10 at Cedar Point, in Sandusky, Ohio. The Golden Ticket Awards event is presented annually by Amusement Today. Related story on the AIMS Award can be found on page 45. A complete recap of the Golden Ticket Awards event will be in the next issue of AT. Congratulations to Harold Hudson on this award. You are deserving of this and we are all proud of your newest honor.*

—GS

#### Letter Policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must have a full name, company name and valid phone number and email address. Letters may be edited for style to AP Stylebook Guidelines. Letters may be sent:

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**Mail:** P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005

#### FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

#### Coping with, and learning from, ride accidents

With fixed-site amusement and theme parks welcoming about 335 million guests annually, and water parks attracting approximately 85 million visitors each year, according to figures supplied by IAAPA, our industry is among the safest in the world.

However, the very nature of our business — providing fun — makes it vulnerable to pile-on media coverage when an accident to any degree of severity occurs. Distinctions between types of attractions and operational circumstances, and variables such as operator error and rider misbehavior, in such situations often become blurred, and the entire industry is vilified. This is unfortunate, and it is exacerbated when a series of accidents occurs within a short time frame.

The tragic death of 10-year-old Caleb Schwab on the 17-story Verrückt waterslide at Schlitterbahn Waterpark Kansas City was the most high-profile in a spate of industry-related accidents in early August. And a family's heartbreaking loss has been felt painfully by the family of amusement operators.

Media scrutiny of ride safety again was swift and, predictably, sensationalized — but not unwarranted. While federal oversight has been called for, the amusement industry has opposed it repeatedly.

As the investigation into what happened at the



Lamanna

Kansas water park continues, greater self-examination has become a must.

Are varying state-level and local government inspection regulations keeping pace with the latest technology and knowledge? Should existing standards be reinforced and adopted across state lines? (Six states don't even have inspection laws.) Should there be more "mandatory" and less "voluntary" when it comes to self-inspection, certification and compliance?

What can the industry do better to protect its customers, and itself, in the pursuit of offering the thrills patrons crave?

On the public relations side, is your park's emergency communications plan sturdy and poised enough to handle the media onslaught following a serious ride accident?

Our industry serves an important function in society. And it enjoys a rare level of public trust. Organizations such as AIMS International, American Red Cross, IRT/iROC and NAARSO, which *Amusement Today* regularly covers, have been doing tremendous work in promoting park safety for many years.

We welcome your thoughts, too, on what this publication might do better in our Safety pages for addressing this most crucial aspect of our industry.



Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries



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National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives



# 2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Withrow

## Lakeisha Dukes, Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts

**Lakeisha Dukes** began her amusement industry career in 1994 with Florida's oldest tourist attraction, which also happens to be home to the largest artesian springs in the world, **Silver Springs Nature Theme Park**, as revenue manager. From there she worked at the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** and with **PARC Management, LLC**. She has been with the **Schlitterbahn** team since 2014 and is enjoying every minute of her role as corporate director of retail operations. When not at work, Lakeisha is a self-professed shopper and is known to seek out live music at local venues.



Lakeisha Dukes shown at Schlitterbahn in front of the popular Mater Blaster. COURTESY SCHLITTERBAHN

### Title...

Corporate Director of Retail Operations.

### Number of years with Schlitterbahn?

I started with Schlitterbahn in 2014, but I have been in the amusement industry for 22 years.

### Best thing about the industry...

It's all about fun, all day long!

### Favorite amusement ride...

Boogie Bahn at Schlitterbahn New Braunfels.

### If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...

I would have pursued a career in supply chain management for a major Fortune 500 Company.

### Biggest challenge facing our industry...

Keeping up with technology and staying relevant.

### The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...

Getting the gift shops ready for the upcoming season.

### The last song I downloaded was...

"No Limit" by Usher.

### Favorite place to chill out...

At home watching the "Real House Wives" TV shows.

### The best moment of my career so far would have to be...

When I served on the IAAPA Merchandise Committee. This was at the start of my career, and it was a great experience. It was the beginning of all of the great experiences to come my way.

### You just won the lottery! The first person

### you call is...

My mother. She is my inspiration — plus she can keep a secret!

### The coolest thing about living in Texas is...

Being able to go and listen to good live music! Also, Texas has the best queso ever.

### The sport I wish I was really good at is...

Volleyball. I could never hit the ball over the net.

### It's October. My favorite fall activity is...

Packing up my summer clothing and bringing out the winter clothes.

### The one thing I did lately that I wish I could take back is...

Nothing! I'm a risk taker.

### The person from my past I would most like to re-connect with is...

My first grade teacher, Mrs. Bliss.

### Pick one: wine or beer?

Neither — but I do love a great virgin Piña Colada.

### When I look out my office window, I see...

I see the inside of the retail warehouse.

### All-time favorite television character...

Laura Ingalls from "Little House on the Prairie."

### My perfect day off is spent...

Shopping.

### The household chore I honestly don't mind doing is...

The dishes.

### My last indulgence was...

A facial, thanks to my wonderful children.

### Favorite time of day...

After 9 p.m. It's my relaxing time, after a long day at work.

### Someday, I hope to travel to...

Barbados. I'd like to see the country where my family originated.

### It's football season! The team I root for is...

Whichever team is winning at that time.

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



## OCTOBER

•**1922:** A Los Angeles newspaper reported that nine persons were injured when a two-car train on a scenic railway jumped the tracks at **Lincoln Park** on Mission Road in Los Angeles, Calif. The incident took place on Oct. 8, on the park's aging Tango side friction coaster. The passengers, including three women and several sailors of the Pacific fleet, were hurled against the tunnel's wooden sides. Fortunately, the train was on the home stretch and its speed had been reduced when the accident took place. After a stop at a local infirmary, all were sent home. **Lincoln Amusement Park** operated adjacent to three early city attractions: the **Los Angeles Alligator Farm**, the **Selig Zoo** and the **Los Angeles Ostrich Farm**.

•**1923:** The old Bowery at **Coney Island**, in Brooklyn, N.Y., which was the main thoroughfare in the amusement zone, began to go through a transformation at the end of 1923. By October, most of the businesses affected by the widening and clean-up of the old amusement zone would see a multitude of buildings and rides razed in the name of progress. First came the new boardwalk, opened a year earlier that literally wiped out most of the irregular bath houses along the beach. The city's Bowery project would eliminate many dance halls, hotels, a boxing arena, vaudeville theaters and several established thrill rides, to provide better access for firefighting equipment. One loss was Jackman's Thriller coaster, while the Drop the Dip coaster containing the steepest drop on any roller coaster on the island, was spared. Ownership arranged to move the entire ride to **Luna Park**, just blocks away. Many felt the changes were too radical, and there were in fact several who thought that it was possible that Coney Island would eventually pass out of existence. Today, over 90 years later, the area is still going strong.

•**1924:** The **Venice Merchant's Exposition** was held in mid-October in Venice, Calif. The gathering of local merchants and politicians was organized to discuss the possibility of constructing a kiddie playland on Venice Beach. Of note, though, was the location of the meeting: it was held next to the **Venice Lagoon** on the site formerly occupied by the Race Through the Clouds racing roller coaster, which had been demolished earlier that year. Designed by **John A. Miller** and built by **Prior and Church** in 1911, the twin-tracked coaster (with over 8,000 total feet of track) last operated in 1923. The property was sold to a local developer who proposed to fill in the valuable land with a business center. That project never came to fruition.

•**1925:** In late October, a ride concessionaire, **Joseph Figari**, who was placing rides in multiple parks, announced he had commissioned the **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** to build a new wooden roller coaster at **Long Branch Park**, in Syracuse, N.Y. The Wildcat, designed by **Herbert Schmeck** and constructed by **George Baker**, opened in the spring of 1926. The new 70-foot-high coaster came with a \$50,000 price tag. The park dated back to 1882, but officially became an amusement park in 1925 with the additional of rides and attractions. The new wooden coaster fit well into the park operation, although both the automobile and lake pollution would eventually close the park in 1938. Figari may be better known for his involvement with PTC in late 1927, in building the Wildcat at **Rocky Springs Park** outside Lancaster, Pa.

•**1926:** In early October, Westchester County, N.Y., in anticipation of building a new amusement park, began the process of selling various rides and buildings from two small parks it had acquired through condemnation. The County planned to sell the rides and eventually raze the two parks, **Paradise Park** and **Rye Beach (Pleasure) Park** in Rye, New York, but arson would play a role in accelerating the process. A large fire on October 14 destroyed a number of buildings and structures at Paradise Park including a Whip ride, which had been advertised for sale but was so badly damaged it could not be sold. Ironically, firemen were attending an evening function and were delayed in responding. Three days later, a bath house and a hotel were set on fire just minutes apart. With Paradise Park left to waste, the county would operate the second park, **Rye Pleasure Beach**, for 1927, before completing demolition and construction of the future park, today known as **Playland**.



# A brief look at 2016 water park growth

NEW ORLEANS, La. — **WWA's Rick Root** and **Aleatha Ezra** agree that 2016 has been one of the strongest years for the water park industry in the U.S. in recent years, both in attendance and revenue. This is attributed to the fact that consistent hot and dry weather patterns spread throughout the U.S. this year compared to wet and rainy patterns over the past years.

They said the U.S. market continues to show consistent growth across all segments.

Municipalities continue to replace outdated flatwater pools with aquatic centers, waterpark attractions and spray parks, which are enabling them to offer a better recreational mix for multi-generational use by their constituents while also covering their operating expenses.

In addition, resort and hotel operators continue to add water parks of various sizes and featured an integrated theme to their list of amenities, which affords families looking for unique "staycation" opportunities a place where they can get away together and experience varied entertainment options.

And, traditional outdoor water parks are entering the market in areas that have been underserved by water recreation in the past. Ezra said many of these outdoor parks are making a big impression on their communities thanks to their ride innovations and creative marketing efforts.

Some highlights of recent water parks to come online in 2016 include:

- Typhoon Texas**, Katy, Texas (outdoor);
- Long Branch Lagoon Water Park**, Dodge City, Kan. (municipal);
- Jade Waters at Hilton Anatole**, Dallas, Texas (resort);
- Great Wolf Lodge Southern California**, Garden Grove, Calif. (resort);
- Midwest Health Aquatic Center**, Shawnee County, Kan. (municipal);
- Sandy Harbor at Ocean Lakes Family Campground**, Myrtle Beach, S. C. (outdoor);
- Splash Kingdom Family Waterpark**, Greenville, Texas (outdoor);
- Water Works at Hershey Lodge**, Hershey, Pa. (hotel); and
- Splashplex at the Funplex**, Mt. Laurel, N.J. (outdoor).

Ezra also said that it has been exciting to see how the water park industry continues to expand in areas such as China, Malaysia, Turkey and Australia. In fact, she continued, new development throughout Asia is so prevalent that it has begun to outpace the North American market for a few years. This is according to the Global Attractions Attendance Report put out each year by TEA and AECOM.

"This year's report even quantifies that new water park attractions are harder to keep track of in Asia because 'they [water parks] are being built at a faster pace—there might be as many as five water parks being built for every new theme park,'" she said.

Building a new water park can be less expensive than building a new theme park and many parts of Asia have weather that allows for a year-round operation, which makes covering the operating expenses that much easier.

Some highlights of recent water parks opened in Asia and other international markets include:

- RamaYana Water Park**, Chonburi, Thailand;
- Land of Legends**, Antalya, Turkey;
- Jogja Bay Pirates Adventure Waterpark**, Sleman, Indonesia;
- Dreamer Water Park**, Aranyaprathet, Thailand;
- Austin Heights Waterpark**, Johor, Malaysia;
- Yinji Xinmi Waterpark**, Henan, China; and
- Wet N Joy Waterpark**, Maharashtra, India.

## ▶WWA Continued from page 1

Crossover Course is a two-day event, beginning Monday and wrapping up the next day.

New this year is the WWA Show App, which WWA staff hope will help attendees navigate through the show to create a personalized schedule.

"We are always excited to deliver a world-class educational and networking experience to our show attendees, but this year we've got a new tool that has us especially jazzed," said Aleatha Ezra, WWA's director of park member development. "In New Orleans, show attendees can download and use our WWA Show App. This app will allow attendees to create their own tailored schedule and save it to their personal calendar. They can also network and connect with individual attendees or groups before, during and after the show."

"Not only do we believe this app will improve the on-site experience, but it will allow attendees to continue to build on and connect with the WWA community of owners, operators and suppliers," Ezra said.

She also said that the show in New Orleans "will once again represent the largest water leisure education and training program anywhere."

The WWA pulls speakers from the industry who have been involved as either operators or suppliers or both. A sampling show of speakers include representatives from: Great Wolf Resorts, headquartered in Madison, Wis.; Palace Entertainment, headquartered in Newport Beach, Calif.; Typhoon Texas, Katy, Texas; Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa.; Wild Island Family Adventure Park, Sparks, Nev.; Charleston (S.C.) County Parks & Recreation; Big Kahuna's Water and Adventure Park, Destin, Fla.; Funtown-Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine; and Wet 'n Wild Brazil, Sao Paulo, just to name a few.

Session highlights from this year's educational program include informative workshops and breakout sessions such as:

- WWA University: In-Park Revenue School;**
- WWA University: Design, Development & Expansion Workshop and Pump Up Your Group Sales: A Strategy & Training Workshop;**
- Engineering For The Next Generation;**
- Sailing the MEDIA-terrestrial Sea;**
- DIY Customer Service Training;**

•**The Big Picture Side of Safety: Building Culture & Awareness;**

•**Marketing, Metrics & Meeting Goal: ROI Tactics to Take Home;**

•**Becoming Miyagi: Creating Great Employees and Leaders;**

•**Concepts for Improving Lifeguard Performance On Stand; and**

•**Recruiting: Finding the Best Employees for Your Organization; among dozens more.**

In addition to the workshops and breakout sessions, this year's WWA Show will feature two Keynote Sessions meant to reinvigorate water park professionals so they can hit the ground running in 2017.

First, on Thursday, Oct. 13, attendees will hear from Aaron Davis, Aaron Davis Presents, as he shares "how championship leaders lead with passion, purpose and love for their people," in his keynote address, "Attitude of a Champion Leader."

Next up, on Friday, Oct. 14, Mike Donnelly, The Donnelly Effect, a Best Speaker recipient at the WWA Show in Palm Springs, Calif., will share how to create and deliver a world-class customer experience that will work for any organization in his address, "World-Class Customer Experience (CX): Build Loyalty by Design."

## ▶MOORE Continued from page 1

review and voting process.

**What do you think is the most important role of the World Waterpark Association?**

Safety is and must always be our top priority. The WWA has been and will continue to be a champion of safety in our industry. Our members serve on regulatory bodies and assist in setting safety standards within the industry. Those members are generous in sharing their insights to advance the best practices that keep safety at the forefront for our members, their employees and their

guests.

**On a personal level, what were some of your highlights?**

What I have enjoyed most is the chance to visit with so many members during the past two years, at WWA Shows and regional gatherings. I have loved the spirit of kinship I experienced with other members through similar experiences, shared struggles and the joys of guests entertained in record-breaking years (in both directions).

Though challenges have been ever present and will remain, we are a healthy organization that focuses on an exciting industry that is ever growing and ever evolving.

—Pam Sherborne

## ▶MIKLOSI Continued from page 1

However, we want to continue to provide the larger aquatics industry with a rallying cry to save lives and prevent drowning.

**What do you expect to be able to give to the association as its chair over the next two years?**

I certainly expect to give plenty of time and energy to the association and its members, but I really expect to get so much more out of this experience.

Our members are some of the most generous people who give of their time and talents and are incredibly passionate about this

industry and the people we serve in our parks.

**Do you have any specific areas of the association that you would like to target to either expand or improve?**

One of the things that has always impressed me so much about this organization is that it never waivers in looking for more ways to bring more service and value to its membership. As a member myself, I have benefitted immensely from the WWA's programs and community of professionals.

Now, as chair, I hope to give something back and continue our forward progress as we grow our member base throughout the world.

—Pam Sherborne



# World Waterpark Association 2016 Symposium and Trade Show

## EXHIBITOR LISTING October 11-14, 2016 New Orleans, La.

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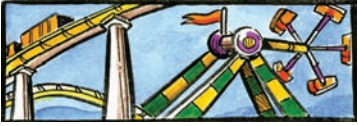


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# INTERNATIONAL

► Walibi Rhone Alpes adds Timber wooden coaster from The Gravity Group — Page 10

## Baynum Painting completes painting project for Luna Park

*Baynum worked with drop tower's supplier, Larson, during project*

NEWPORT, Ky. — Baynum Painting, a Newport, Ky firm specializing in painting solutions and industrial coatings for amusement parks and commercial facilities, is wrapping up its latest amusement ride painting project, a 40-meter-tall drop tower ride called Hair Raiser at Luna Park in Sydney, Australia.

Baynum Painting was engaged for the project due to the intricate nature of the job. Hair Raiser required a full-scale restoration with corrosion prevention, and refinishing of the entire ride structure to a dramatic new blue color.

"Due to the ride's location on the famous Sydney Harbor, and being in an open to the public midway, accessing the ride with traditional high lift equipment was not an option," said Chris Baynum, founder and owner of Bay-

num Painting.

The park's owners considered completely disassembling the ride, and sending it in pieces off-site for restoration. Instead, the ride's manufacturer, Larson International, brought in Baynum Painting to look at other solutions.

"Having painted many similar tower ride structures throughout parks in the United States, Baynum Painting was able to develop a plan to bring an experienced team and specialized rigging equipment all

the way to Sydney, in order to complete the total restoration on site," said Baynum.

A coordinated effort took place involving Baynum's team, the ride manufacturer, and park management for nearly a year. Working with worldwide industrial paint manufacturer PPG to specify the correct products, Baynum's team successfully completed the tower's transformation in early August.

This is just the latest project Baynum Painting has completed for the amusement park

industry. Baynum's first roller coaster project was Kings Island's The Beast in 1986, and since then, Baynum Painting has completed more than 200 major roller coaster projects, including rides throughout Cedar Fair and Six Flags' properties, and for dozens of other popular amusement park operators.

Baynum Painting is currently celebrating 30 years in the amusement park painting business.

•baynumpainting.com

## TusenFryd's new Hafema rapids ride thrills family audience

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

VINTERBRO, Norway — The latest major ride addition at TusenFryd in Norway, the Ragnarok rapids ride, which opened at the start of the 2016 season, has been hailed a big success by the park and its guests.

Supplied by the German company Hafema and unique in northern Europe, the 500-meter (1,640-foot) long ride represents an investment of NOK45 million (\$5.5 million) and features 1.3 million liters of water during operation, pumped by two large pumps pushing 2,200 liters of water per second to create the desired strong current within the river.

With an hourly capacity of 900, visitors ride in one of nine circular rafts, each of which accommodates up to nine passengers. The attraction has been given a Norse theme in keeping with the design of Thor's



Hammer, another well-known favorite in the park, and begins close by that attraction. The river's route follows the sloping terrain of this area of the park and during the ride, guests experience two waterfalls, a swirling maelstrom, a tunnel and a variety of other challenging features.

"The new Ragnarok has been successfully introduced to the park this year," said TusenFryd's marketing manager Erik Andersen. "It's a family ride and our visitors have been very satisfied with it. Families can do the ride together and every trip is unique."



The Ragnarok rapids ride provides watery fun and thrills for all the family. The new rapids ride incorporates a variety of features such as waterfalls, a maelstrom section and a tunnel. COURTESY TUSENFRYD





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# Walibi Rhône-Alpes adds Timber wooden coaster

*The Gravity Group supplies 56-foot-tall, \$6.7 million thriller; Zamperla Barnyard Ride rounds out new ride mix*

**AT:** Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

LES AVENIERES, France — Walibi Rhône-Alpes in southeast France, has been entertaining guests during 2016 with a new wooden roller coaster introduced as the anchor ride in a brand new area of the park.

Themed on a storyline of lumberjacks seeking a way to cut wood as quickly as possible, the new ride, Timber, was created by U.S.-based The Gravity Group and was designed specifically for the park with its track banking around an existing Wild Mouse coaster and skirting along the edge of the parking lot.

Timber is the centerpiece of the new €6 million. (\$6.7 million) Explorer Adventure area of Walibi Rhône-Alpes which itself is the initial part of a 10-year investment plan aimed at increasing visitor numbers and developing the overall visitor experience. The new area is themed on trappers and woodsmen and their adventures, spirit and ever-present music. The area also features a new family attraction in the shape of a themed Barnyard ride from Zamperla, an existing Zamperla Wild Mouse coaster formerly called Scratch but now renamed the Woodstock Express, and a new food court.

Timber takes riders on a journey along a 1,464 feet (446-meter) long track and to a maximum height of 56 feet (17 meters). With a maximum speed of just under 40 mph (64 kph), it incorporates a first drop of 55 feet (16.7 meters) at 56.5 degrees and includes 11 moments of airtime. A stand-out feature is also a banked double-up, airtime element where guests are banked in one direction for the first half of the double-up and in the opposite direction on the second half of this element. Throughout the ride there is a mix of airtime hills and

highly banked curves that go close to the ground.

Timber also makes use of Timberliner trains which accommodate riders of 42 inches and taller, making it available to guests of around six years old and up. The Timberliner cars are the only wooden coaster cars with steering wheel systems, allowing the ride to have tighter turns and sharper drops than traditional wooden coasters. This design also helps to deliver a smoother ride than on some other wooden coasters.

The theming of Timber is another key element, and guests get a taste for this as they pass scenes from a logging camp while in the queue line area. As the train departs the station, a unique soundtrack is played as they ascend the lift hill which is climaxed with a loud “TIM-



Walibi Rhône-Alpes' newest themed Explorer Adventure area features a new wooden coaster from U.S.-based The Gravity Group and this Barnyard Ride from Zamperla. The park's existing Zamperla Wild Mouse coaster was rethemed to fit the new area.

COURTESY WALIBI RHÔNE-ALPES

BER!” before the first drop descent. The ride vehicles also feature unique theming with a giant circular saw blade on the front of each of the two, 12-seater trains.

The Gravity Group's Korey Kiepert said: “I think Timber is the perfect addition for Walibi Rhône-Alpes. Standing at only 17 meters,

it is small enough to be a child's first big coaster. But there is enough of an airtime adventure to make it a favorite for the entire family. Walibi Rhône-Alpes has a great collection of family rides and Timber complements this as the centerpiece of their wonderful new Explorer Adventure area of the

park. With our Timberliner trains, we have been able to take a small space and fill it with a ride that delivers big thrills suitable for the entire family. It was a pleasure working with (park owner) Compagnie des Alpes and Walibi Rhône-Alpes to bring another wooden coaster to the families of Europe.”



Walibi Rhône-Alpes' new Timber coaster features a variety of exciting elements along its 1,464-foot-long course, including 11 moments of airtime. It utilizes Timberliner trains that accommodate riders of 42 inches and taller.

COURTESY WALIBI RHONE ALPES



# First ever CBeebies Land Hotel coming to Alton Towers in 2017

**AT:** Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

ALTON, England — Following the launch of CBeebies Land in 2014, Alton Towers Resort in the U.K. is to open the first ever CBeebies Land Hotel, specially designed for families with young children and pre-schoolers.

CBeebies Land is an interactive area at Alton Towers in which children can learn and play. Featuring a variety of characters and shows from the hit BBC TV channel including Postman Pat, Something Special, The Octonauts and Tree Fu Tome, CBeebies Land is home to a range of rides, attractions and live shows, and the new hotel will complement the area and add further to the overall experience on offer.

Due to open in sum-

mer 2017, the 76-room, fully themed hotel will spread over four floors and house its own dedicated entertainment area, restaurant and a whimsical reception area which will include a central CBeebies Bugbie storybook feature with interactive lights and audio. On arrival at the CBeebies Land Hotel entrance, guests will be greeted by the CBeebies Land plane and a brightly colored lit rainbow archway, welcoming them into a world that will spark their imagination. Children will also meet some of their favorite characters within the hotel.

A full year-round entertainment program will also be available, featuring live shows, story time, character meet and greets and CBeebies games. Running seven days a week, the dedicated entertainment



**All 76 rooms in the new CBeebies Land Hotel at Alton Towers will be themed on characters from the popular TV show.**  
COURTESY  
ALTON TOWERS RESORT

area will offer hosted activities as well as self-play.

All the rooms in the new hotel will be designed with a

separate area for children and parents and will include a children's entertainment wall with interactive play items such as

activity tables for drawing and playing. With a range of rooms designed to sleep up to seven people, CBeebies Bugbies will adorn the 42 standard rooms while 26 premium rooms will have a variety of themes including Something Special, Swashbuckle and more. There will also be eight suites.

In keeping with the design aimed at young children, every room will have toddler friendly features such as bathroom steps to the sink, children's toilet seats, baby baths and a cot. The hotel will also house five fully accessible rooms designed to take into account the needs of those with special requirements.

The CBeebies Land Hotel will adjoin the existing Alton Tower Hotel, but will have its own themed entrance and reception area.

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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

►NEW for 2017: Cedar Fair — Pages 18 & 19 / Dollywood's Splash Country — Page 23 / Six Flags — Page 24

## Schlitterbahn Galveston Island opens Massiv water coaster

AT: Jeffrey Seifert  
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

GALVESTON, Texas — The world's tallest water coaster, Massiv, opened to the public on June 22.

Beyond the well-known adage "Everything is bigger in Texas," is another: "It ain't braggin' if it's true." To prove that the park isn't just bragging, Guinness World Records, the internationally recognized authority of noteworthy statistics, was on hand June 16 to verify the claim. Standing 81 feet, 6 and 3/4 inches tall, it is indeed the tallest water coaster in the known universe — Guinness says so.

### FAST FACTS

#### Name/Park

Massiv/  
Schlitterbahn Galveston  
Island Waterpark,  
Galveston Island, Texas

#### Height

81 feet, 6.75 inches

#### Length

925 feet

#### Features

135 slide segments;  
7 green translucent  
segments;  
123 steps to the top;  
4 uphill blasts

#### World Record

Massiv sets a  
Guinness World Record as  
the tallest water coaster

#### Supplier

Built by Schlitterbahn and  
WhiteWater West

#### Opened

June 22, 2016

Ron Sutula, general manager of Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Waterpark says, "Massiv has definitely become the marquee ride for Galveston, and is often the first ride guests head for in the morning. While there is a line all day, the best thing about the ride is hearing from guests that the experience is well worth the wait and they look forward to riding it again and again."

Pronounced Mass-EVE, a German word meaning massive, the water coaster features a number of innovations in addition to its enormity.

Higher sides and clear Plexiglass side "windows," eliminate the need for an overhead safety net, giving riders a clear view of the ride experience.

Massiv has also been outfitted with the latest technology developed by WhiteWater to make the uphill water slide more economical to operate.

Instead of having the blaster pumps run full throttle all day long, variable frequency drives (VFD) can dynamically adjust the pump speeds while the ride is in operation. The pumps can slow or even turn off when water is not needed to propel a raft full of thrill seekers uphill. As the raft approaches an uphill section, the pumps quickly crank up the power to produce a water blast with enough thrust to propel the raft.

Riders can witness the dynamic operation during the ride. Prior to dispatch, all seems quiet, but once the raft is released from the top of the tower, the first uphill water jets come to life as riders plunge down the first drop. This action repeats itself with the remaining three uphill sections.



The VFD system does more than just turn the water on and off, however. It can also monitor each raft, producing just enough thrust to propel the raft to its target uphill velocity. A raft with two small children will not need as much thrust as a raft with two hefty adults — and the VFD can adjust for the difference.

**Schlitterbahn Galveston Island opened their newest park icon on June 22 with the debut of Massiv, an 81-foot-tall water coaster co-built by Schlitterbahn and WhiteWater West. The ride set the Guinness World Record as the tallest water coaster in the world.**

COURTESY SCHLITTERBAHN

Testing has shown that the VFD can reduce electricity usage by as much as 55 percent. The system also reduces wear and tear on the mechanical equipment as it is not running at full throttle all day long.

Other features include numerous translucent segments alternating with solid segments to give a distinctive "lighting" effect in the enclosed sections of the tube. Finally the ride ends with a straight, never-been-done-before triple drop into the landing pool.

The uphill blaster technology that Massiv uses was developed 22 years ago at the original Schlitterbahn Resort in New Braunfels, Texas. Thomas Lochtefeld, inventor of the FlowRider, approached Jeff Henry of Schlitterbahn, and the two turned Lochtefeld's sheet wave concept into an uphill water coaster called a "master blaster." The first attraction to use that technology, Dragon Blaster, opened at Schlitterbahn in May 1994.

In 2006, Henry agreed to license the master blaster technology to WhiteWater West of British Columbia, Canada, which is the company that constructed Massiv.

Recently, Massiv won the 2016 Best New Water Park Ride in the Golden Ticket Awards presented annually by *Amusement Today*. The awards ceremony was held at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio on Sept. 10.

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Schlitterbahn Galveston Island, Texas





# New capital at NRH20 helps save rainy season

## WhiteWater provides four new slides

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, Texas — North Texas summers are rather predictable; they are typically hot and dry — a climate that allows water parks to generally thrive. This past summer had periods of unusual rainy periods and cooler temperatures.

“We had rain in the beginning of the season, as well as the last weeks in August,” said Stephanie Kee, marketing specialist at NRH20. Kee believes that new capital helped recoup part of the downturn the extended weather interruption caused.

New for the city-owned park this season was a water-slide tower complex. In contrast to other parks that give a name to an entire tower, NRH20 let each individual slide speak for itself. Each slide is distinctly different from each other, thus offering a variety of new experiences.

Continuing a long relationship with WhiteWater West, NRH20 added four slides: Blue Sky, Thunder, Riggamaroll and Sidewinder. The new body slides range from a mild ride experience to sheer adrenalin. Blue Sky, the tamest of the quartet, is an open body slide. Thunder is a black enclosed slide. The darkness is accented by bands of translucent rings incorporated into the slide. Natural sunlight illuminates rainbow like effects as riders slide through the rings. Riggamaroll is a single person bowl attraction that banks riders high on the wall of the bowl as he or she circles a complete lap. The highest of all the new attractions is Sidewinder, which features a drop capsule and a flatline loop from a height of 60 feet.

“The Sidewinder and the Riggamaroll are more high thrill,” said Kee, speaking toward their popularity. With a laugh, Kee related her own experience on Sidewinder to AT: “It’s intense. It’s exciting. She [a recorded voice] counts

for you...3, 2, 1. But I would rather you just drop it and just go, so I’m not anticipating the drop.”

To make way for the new installations, three original park slides were retired. In doing so, they replaced that tower with the new steel structure. The park made use of the splashpool from the previous retired attractions. Three of the new slides have a splashdown finale while the drop slide ends in a long runoff.

“We had a tower — a wooden tower — next to the existing one, but with those slides and the tower itself being original, we would have decided to replace the whole thing. The new slides do go into the existing catchpool,” said Kee. “This is our 22nd season and we knew we were going to be replacing them. They were favorites, but it was time to replace and bring in new excitement to the park.”

The park’s target opening was Memorial Day weekend, but opened them on Memorial Day itself. They wanted guests to see and experience the new product after watching the construction. While daily at that time, the first week following Memorial Day is a lighter week, so they took the rides down a few days to finish up some cosmetic touches.

Looking ahead, NRH20 has plans for expanding the new installation.

“There is space to add additional slides; so this project will have two more slides added in the next two to three years with one slide ending in the catchpool and one going off to the side near Sidewinder,” said Key.

AT inquired if the city of North Richland Hills is responsible for adding capital. “We’re owned by the city, but we are not part of the general fund,” explained Key. “We are our own enterprise and adding new attractions and paying off our debt...that is our own responsibility.”

When asked about the slide names, she said, “We actually came up with several sets of names we liked with our marketing agency [Alchemy in Dallas] and put together groupings of names and put them out to vote



**NRH20 in North Richland Hills, Texas, once again turned to WhiteWater to deliver its new-for-2016 attraction, this four-slide tower complex. The new thrill slides helped the city-owned park offset a rainy start to summer.**

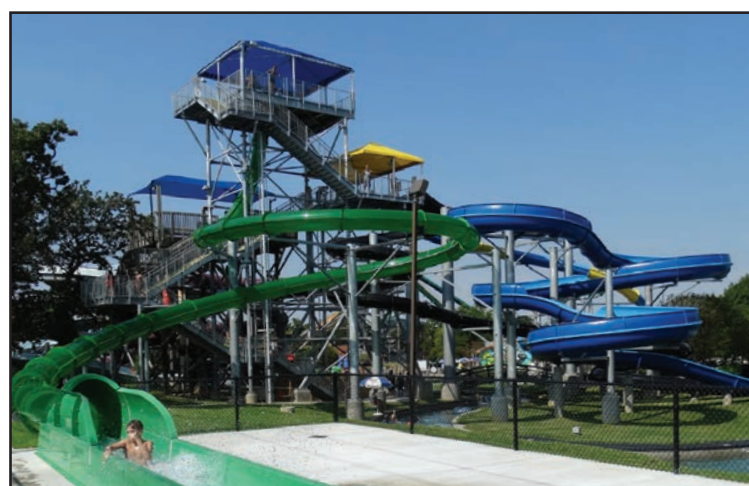
AT/TIM BALDWIN

with our guests. We did a social media push with it.”


NRH20 welcomes about 250,000 people a year. Although a neighborhood waterpark, the facility boasts some large capital, including the first Viper water attraction from WhiteWater West in the United States, as well as a large Master Blaster uphill water coaster called Green Extreme.

AT asked Key what she felt was the best thing about the new additions. “It sounds cheesy because I am in marketing,” she said, “but seeing the guests happy and excited. They’ve been seeing the construction, either by driving by or through our drone footage posted. We hadn’t added anything since 2011, so to see them excited for something new and for them to see us still growing and continuing to offer something new... that’s great.”

On the final operating day of Sept. 25, the park hosted Doggie Beach Bash where pet owners can bring out their dogs and swim with them in the pools, rivers and play in the children’s areas.





A black and white portrait of Keith A. Dalton, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dark, solid color.

*“Building a brand new waterpark from scratch is a huge undertaking. We knew if we were going to do it right it had to be big and it had to open on time. We needed a partner with the horsepower to get it done and WhiteWater was the right decision. A project of this scale took an incredible amount of teamwork and WhiteWater was with us every step of the way.”*

Keith A. Dalton  
Co-President  
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## Water World opens body board surfing pool

FEDERAL HEIGHTS, Colo. — Water World unveiled a first-of-its-kind attraction over the summer. Cowabunga Beach is a wave pool specifically designed for boogie boarders, offering an ocean-style boarding experience. Riders enter from one of three entry points at the end of the pool, catch a wave, and board surf up to 100 feet to the shallow end of the pool. The new attraction is a remodel of the former Captain Jack's Wave Pool that originally opened in 1980. Aquatic Development Group (ADG) provided the design and wave equipment, and World Class Bodyboards of Torrance, Calif. supplied the boogie boards. Waves roll from the back of the pool approximately every four seconds; with three riders dispatched every four seconds, the attraction has the potential to accommodate 2,700 people an hour.

Water World also opened a second, mini wave pool, adjacent to Cowabunga Beach, known as Turtle Bay. The turtle-themed pool is 18-inches deep and features gentle waves, a waterfall and turtle-themed spray structures.

Cowabunga Beach is surrounded by a



**WaterWorld's new Cowabunga Beach.**  
COURTESY WATER WORLD

large greenspace covered with artificial turf with plenty of lounge chairs for relaxing. The area is flanked by covered shelters with picnic tables. New this year are Cowabungalows, offering a personal shade structure, two lounge chairs and a drink table. Cowabungalows may be rented for the day for an additional \$40 plus tax. Advance reservation are recommended.

—Jeffrey Seifert

## Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park to open new family raft ride in 2017

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park is growing its roster of guest experiences and embarking on a high seas adventure with a new family-friendly water attraction called Miss Fortune Falls, expected to open in spring 2017.

Located near Crush 'n' Gusher, Miss Fortune Falls brings to life the story of the fictitious Captain Mary Oceaneer, a treasure-hunting heroine who got stranded at Typhoon Lagoon years ago by a rogue storm.

Once aboard their treasure rafts awaiting them at



the ride's entry point, guests will embark on a journey through Captain Oceaneer's past before plunging into a white-water adventure where guests can see unique artifacts that she collected on her many treasure hunts around the world.

"We're thrilled to add to our menu of great guest

experiences at Disney's Water Parks with Miss Fortune Falls," said Faron Kelley, vice president of ESPN Wide World of Sports, Disney's Water Parks & Miniature Golf. "We believe this new attraction will quickly become a favorite with our guests, who are always looking for new ways to enjoy our parks."

With a ride time of two minutes, Miss Fortune Falls will be among the lengthiest at any Disney water park.

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon is a 60-acre themed

► See DISNEY, page 17

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# ProSlide RocketBlast coaster opens

POINTE CALUMET, Quebec, Canada — This summer, Super Aqua Club became home to North America's first RocketBlast coaster/saucer slide from ProSlide. Named Tsunami, it is the second such attraction in the world, following an installation at Siam Park in the Canary Islands, Spain. The Super Aqua Club installation required an investment of CA \$3.5 million (U.S. \$2.65 million).

The new design uses sequential water jets with a new nozzle design patented by ProSlide. The water jets are positioned all the way up the coaster hills, applying consistent force to the boat. The new technology allows for steeper hills than traditional traditional blaster coasters. The boats are equipped with patented "accelerators" — cup-shaped pockets on the side of the boats that capture the stream of water and use all its dynamic energy. The RocketBlast Technology can power heavier boats with more people delivering 50 percent more capacity. The propulsion system on Tsunami moves 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of water every minute.

The massive saucers are designed so that the

boats stick high to the wall all the way through the saucer curve. The ProSlide compound curve is a key design element that combines arcs with different radii for a faster, tighter ride and stronger g-forces. The precise roll and pitch of the saucer creates maximum speed and centrifugal force.

The Super Aqua Club

installation features four saucer sections, two uphill blasts and a tunneled finale. The slide was custom-designed to work with the terrain of the park. Super Aqua Club has been open to the public since 1985 and features more than 45 water-based attractions for guests of all ages.

—Jeffrey Seifert



ProSlide's first RocketBlast coaster/saucer slide has opened at Super Aqua Club in Pointe Calumet, Quebec, Canada. COURTESY PROSLIDE



## ►DISNEY

Continued from page 16

water park — inspired by the legend of a typhoon, earthquake and volcanic eruption combining to create an inland sea with break waves (Typhoon Lagoon) and a towering watershed mountain (Mt. Mayday) atop which is a stranded shrimp boat (the Miss Tilly).

The park offers water activities suitable for all ages, including signature attractions such as Crush 'n' Gusher, a water coaster that takes riders aboard inflatable rafts on a twisting, turning, up-and-down adventure; Ketchakiddee Creek, a water playground for children ages two to five (under four feet tall) and their parents; and Castaway Creek, where guests hop onto inner tubes for a meandering water tour through a misty rain forest and a hidden grotto.



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## Water attractions play major role in chainwide plans

# Cedar Fair unleashes big wave of 2017 wet/dry park investment

AT: Dean Lamanna  
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SANDUSKY, Ohio — With net revenues up \$22 million in the first six months of this year, and an increase in both attendance and revenues continuing through at least the end of July, theme and water park operator Cedar Fair is on track for a seventh consecutive year of record results.

"Our commitment to the quality of the guest experience and our investments in transformative capital projects are expanding our audience, enhancing repeatability and improving value perceptions, resulting in growth across all aspects of our business," said **Matt Ouimet**, Cedar Fair's CEO.

The company's dynamic performance in 2016 has encouraged it to move confidently forward with upgrades and expansions at its properties across North America for next year. *Amusement Today* has assembled the highlights.



### Creating more splash

At Cedar Fair's flagship park in Sandusky, **Cedar Point**, the major improvement will be an extensive transformation of Soak City into the brand-new, 18-acre Cedar Point Shores water park.

With a nod to its Lake Erie environs and mile-long beach, Cedar Point Shores will feature three completely new water attractions, including Point Plummet, a six-story-tall, 400-foot-long aqua-drop body slide that will simultaneously send four guests on a momentary free fall when the floor drops out; Starboard Surge & Portside Plunge, two, five-story tube slides that can accommodate guests riding alone or with a friend; and Lakeside Landing, a new family splashground with 12 kid-sized waterslides and



The newly renamed Cedar Point Shores water park in Sandusky, Ohio, will introduce the six-story-tall Point Plummet waterslide (above) and a family playground, Lakeside Landing (right), next season.  
COURTESY CEDAR FAIR

a sundeck around a zero-depth-entry pool.

The water park's existing slides and attractions will get makeovers as well, with most receiving new beach-themed names designed to foster a more resort-like atmosphere. Cabanas on either side of the wave pool will be updated with free Wi-Fi, charging stations and televisions, as well.

Once guests enter through the new main entrance, Cedar Point Shores also will offer a new eatery, the Crystal Rock Café, and a new poolside bar.

Elsewhere in Ohio, **Kings Island** in Mason will add shade structures, changing rooms, cooling mister fans and expanded deck space to its Soak City waterslide oas-



sis. The water park will also be getting a smokehouse-style restaurant.

In the next state to the north, **Michigan's Adventure** in Muskegon will reconfigure its Beach Party and Half Pint Paradise water play areas so that guests can move between them more easily and with improved visibility.

Half Pint Paradise will be completely revamped, with new equipment including seven children's slides. In addition, a new Splash Pad will offer a variety of interactive features, which will be sur-

rounded by dumping water structures and bubbling geysers. Private cabanas and additional shaded seating also will be added.

Across the border in Vaughan, Ontario, Canada, 2017 will bring a towering new attraction to Splash Works at **Canada's Wonderland**. To experience Muskoka Plunge, a 60-foot-tall waterslide complex featuring four speed slides, riders will step into an enclosed launch chamber and suddenly plummet into a high-

► See CEDAR FAIR, page 19

## Cedar Fair shutter Wildwater Kingdom

AURORA, Ohio — The announcement that **Wildwater Kingdom** — representing the last operating vestiges of the old and much-loved **Geauga Lake / SeaWorld Ohio** amusement area — would close permanently at the end of this season appeared quietly, but not without stirring considerable chatter via social media channels, on the water park's website in mid-August.

"Cedar Fair has been working cooperatively with both Bainbridge Township and the City of Aurora to redevelop the entire property into what will best benefit the surrounding communities," the message said. "After examining its long-range plans, Cedar Fair has determined that the time is right to begin this transition and will continue to work together with community leadership in the positive future development of the property."

"Cedar Fair would like to thank the residents of Northeast Ohio for supporting Wildwater Kingdom each summer."

The website message was posted a day after Cedar Point in Sandusky announced an expansion of its own water park. However, that park's manager, **Jason McClure**, told a Cleveland-area reporter that the timing was coincidental and that he was unaware of any corporate intention to move assets from Wildwater Kingdom to Cedar Point.

Wildwater Kingdom gave its final waterslide rides on Sept. 5.

As AT went to press, there was no definitive word regarding plans to redevelop or sell the property. Speculation in local media suggested that its future as an amusement area was unlikely.

—Dean Lamanna

Knott's Soak City in Buena Park, Calif., will unveil two waterslide towers in 2017: **The Wedge**, a twisting course with open-air family rafts, and **Shore Break**, with four high-speed slides among its splashy options.  
COURTESY CEDAR FAIR







Cedar Fair's 2017 North American ride roll-out includes the spinning, arcing thriller Soaring Timbers at Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan, Ontario, Canada (far left); the classic Himalaya-style Rock 'N' Roller in the new County Fair section at Carowinds in Charlotte, N.C. (middle); and the retro Kaleidoscope at Dorney Park in Allentown, Pa. (right) — a vintage Huss-manufactured favorite that's also coming to Carowinds and Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo., under different names. COURTESY CEDAR FAIR

## ►CEDAR FAIR

### Continued from page 18

speed free fall through S-curves and horizontal loops.

Back in the U.S., the water park at **Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom** in Allentown, Pa., will be enhanced with 17 new cabanas offering numerous amenities, such as beverage service. Drinks for adults, plus some savory eats, can be had at the new, full-service Sunset Beach Bar.

On the West Coast, after five-years of general upgrades and legacy attraction renovations at the adjoining Knott's Berry Farm theme park, **Knott's Soak City** in Buena Park, Calif., is getting some needed attention.

Orange County's largest water park will debut two waterslide towers: Shore Break, at over seven stories tall, will offer several different experiences — including four translucent, high-speed slides with a floor-dropping Aqua-Launch chamber; and

The Wedge, an open-air family raft ride that will take the current location of Pacific Spin. Up to six guests at a time will descend down navigating twists and turns and surprise drops.

The new slides at the Knott's property are being supplied by **WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd.** Updated cabanas, shaded seating areas and a remodeled Longboard's Grill will round out Soak City's improvements.

### Rides and more

Cedar Fair also has announced a slew of ride installations and event roll-outs for 2017.

While still teasing the media over what will replace Cedar Point's just-closed Mean Streak wooden coaster (speculation has centered on a **Rocky Mountain Construction** steel-track redo for 2018) as *AT* went to press, the company finally released details on Mystic Timbers — a new 109-foot-tall, 3,265-foot long, 53-mph wooden coast-

er from **Great Coasters International** now under construction at Kings Island.

At **California's Great America** in Santa Clara, Calif., Patriot, will emerge as a floorless coaster from a technical makeover of the 1991-opened **Bolliger & Mabillard** stand-up coaster Vortex. New trains will carry riders in a seated position, legs dangling free, to the top of a 91-foot-high lift before sending them into a 360-degree loop at 45 mph.

Aside from coasters, rides both cutting-edge and vintage are on the way.

Canada's Wonderland is adding Soaring Timbers, the first thrill machine of its type in North America. The contraption will send guests spiraling skyward on two massive rotating gondolas that swing passengers through sweeping arcs while rotating 360 degrees.

In addition to a redesigned front gate, **Worlds of Fun** in Kansas City, Mo., will debut Falcon's Flight — a hair-raising ride that spins and rises simultaneously as it carries more than 50 riders to a height of nearly 100 feet.

Also coming to Worlds of Fun under the moniker Mustang Runner — and to Dorney Park and **Carowinds** in Charlotte, N.C., with the names Kaleidoscope and Do-Si-Do, respectively — is a vintage **Huss**-manufactured flat ride commonly called Troika when it was first introduced some four decades ago. Three arms with seven gondolas each rise and turn counterclockwise while the entire ride spins in the opposite direction.

Do-Si-Do is part of Carowinds' new-for-2017 County Fair section, where

several other classic flat rides will await guests — including Rock 'N' Roller, a music-driven, Himalaya-style centrifugal force ride; and Zephyr, a wave swinger. Accompanying Kaleidoscope in a similar nostalgia push at Dorney Park will be the return of Dodgem bumper cars.

Dorney additionally will introduce a 30-minute live show titled Cirque Imagine, featuring aerial acts, bicycle stunts and trampoline performers. The park's new Parkside Pavilion, capable of accommodating 2,000 guests, will provide a catering for corporate, church and other group outings.

Kings Dominion has another major expansion of its Planet Snoopy kids' area in the works for next season that will bring the section's ride tally to 20. Among the new family-friendly rides are Kite Eating Tree, which will propel guests to the top of a tower "to retrieve Charlie

Brown's kite" before bouncing them back down to the platform; Sally's Sea Plane, a giant aircraft that rotates and rises; and Peanuts 500, with miniature vehicles designed to carry a parent and child around a racetrack.

In the realm of immersive holiday events, the biggest news is that WinterFest will return to Kings Island in 2017 after a 12-year-absence. California's Great America will launch an identically named version of the celebration this season, while Carowinds and Worlds of Fun will be introducing their own iterations of the festival next year.

"We are extending our operating season with the introduction of WinterFest," said Cedar Fair's Matt Oumet. "We are extremely excited about the potential the event represents for expanding the entertainment offerings to guests at a number of our parks over the next several years."



Patriot, the first floorless roller coaster for California's Great America in Santa Clara, Calif., will emerge next season from a technical makeover of the 1991-opened Bolliger & Mabillard stand-up coaster Vortex — with new trains.

COURTESY CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA



WinterFest will return to Kings Island in Mason, Ohio, in 2017 after a 12-year-absence. California's Great America will launch a version of the celebration this season, while Carowinds and Worlds of Fun will introduce their own iterations of the festival next year. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND



After a 38-year run, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has closed **Wild Waters** water park in Silver Springs State Park. The State took over the water park in 2014, and has shifted its focus toward capitalizing on the natural beauty of the park and providing nature-based activities.

Wild Waters water park, with its fiberglass flumes and pools, concrete walkways and concession stands, did not fit in with the vision for Silver Springs. A communications manager for the park also indicated that the aging facility was reaching the end of its useful life, was in need of an overhaul and was getting increasingly expensive to operate.

However, not everyone agreed with the FDEP's assessment. Some locals have started petitions and online campaigns to keep the water park open, stating that the FDEP is making all the decisions without any input from the local taxpayers.

**Super Splash USA** may have closed for good in August at end of the season. The Raytown, Mo., facility first opened as a private swimming pool in 1963. It was acquired by the city and expanded into a water park in 1988. The Raytown Park Board has indicated the park is more than 50 years old and maintenance costs are rising. There have been broken water lines and some slides were closed due to structural concerns. The facility is looking at an extensive list of repairs if it is to reopen. In September, Raytown's nine alderman decided to close the park for one year while a strategic plan is studied regarding the entire Raytown park system. Plans could include development of a new aquatic center.

Australian-based **Wave Park Group** has proposed a 2.4-hectare (5.93-acre) wave lagoon for Melville in Western Australia. The AU \$25 million (U.S. \$18.71 million) facility will be capable of producing a surfable wave as high as 1.7 meters (5.6 feet) that can last as long as 17 seconds. The Perth area is known for its idyllic beaches, but the surf quality is often poor.

Part of the proposed location, right along the banks of the Swan River, is currently used by the Melville Bowling Club. However, plans call for a state-of-the-art bowling facility with synthetic greens, about 450 to 500 yards from the site of the existing facility.

In September, the largest floating inflatable water park in the Middle East opened in the Persian Gulf. Located just off the beach along the Jumeirah Beach Residence waterfront community, the unique floating obstacle course is in the shape of the Dubai logo, which spells out the word Dubai in both English and Arabic. **Dubai Aqua Park** features a number of obstacles for guests to overcome such as, slides, ramps, wiggle bridges, curves and towers. The 77-meter by 33-meter (253-foot by 108-foot) course can accommodate as many as 500 people at a time. Eight lifeguards will be on duty to ensure that every guest has a safe and enjoyable experience.

Not to be outdone, Qatar opened its version of an inflatable park in Doha Bay. **Splash Water Park** opened September 8, at Katari, a cultural village in Doha. The water park, operated by an all-Qatari company features 60 inflatable attractions and a zip line, all designed for families and children. The temporary water park will be open from 3 p.m. to midnight every day, for the next two months. It is in place for guests to enjoy during the Eid al-Ad-

## NEWS SPLASH



COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert  
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ha holidays, during which Katara receives 70,000 to 100,000 guests. If the venture is successful, the organizers may extend the operating season, perhaps opening it twice per year.

The **Cherry Valley Lodge** and its **CoCo Key Water Resort** have been put up for sale. Located in Newark, Ohio, the property is east of Columbus and about a 45-minute drive from Port Columbus International Airport. The Cherry Valley Lodge features 18 landscaped acres in a bucolic setting that includes both an arboretum and botanical garden. It was originally built by State Farm Insurance as a corporate meeting center. It was converted to a hotel in 2005 by Denver-based **Sage Hospitality**, then sold to the current owner Houston-based **Bellaire Hospitalities** in 2011.

The 50,000 square-foot CoCo Key indoor water park includes body and raft slides, a water play structure and activity pool. The facility also includes an arcade and eateries as well as 10,000 square feet of meeting space.

Bellaire Hospitalities has put the hotel up for sale in order to redeploy its capital and finance a large mixed use development in another state.

**Conneaut Lake Park** in Pa. reopened its water park after having been closed for several years. The water park, which includes a lazy river, kiddie pool and water slide has not operated since 2011. Portions of the PVC pipe system were leaking and had to be replaced, and the river's two water circulating pumps had to be rebuilt before it could open. In May, the lazy river, Otter Creek Adventure River, opened to the public. The water slide, Cliffhanger Falls, and Connie Otter's Kiddie Cove children's pool were not ready until August.

Some aging and dead trees on the grounds around the river area were removed to bring sunlight into the water park. A wooden walkway over the river channel was refurbished giving guests access to a large grassy area inside the river's loop.

The Conneaut Lake Volunteer Group held a fund raiser at the **Hotel Conneaut** and raised \$5,700. The money was used to purchase a new concessions building for the water park.

The 1970 pool at **Chambersburg's Memorial Park** in Chambersburg, Pa. closed for good on Labor Day — to the citizens. Dogs, however, were allowed to give the pool one last goodbye, the following Saturday at a special dog swim event.

The pool is being replaced with a modern family aquatic center financed by a \$9.75 million recreation bond. The aquatic portion will include a six-lane 25-meter lap pool, a 1,215-square-foot spray ground, a 715-square-foot children's pool with interactive water elements, an adult activity pool with interactive elements, a lazy river and water slides.

The facility will also include a 1,200 square-foot covered party pavilion and a large uncovered picnic pad, as well as five smaller picnic pads that can be rented for family events or large parties.

**Splashicana**, a water and adventure park pro-

posed for Corsicana, Texas, is one step closer to becoming a reality. In September, the Small Business Administration approved its portion of the loan. There are still other lenders to deal with but with SBA approval, project leaders can compile the loans into a construction loan and begin the project. The new park, scheduled for a summer 2017 opening, has been a long time in the works. The Corsicana Chamber of Commerce first announced the project in February 2013.

Dallas-based **Leisure and Recreation Concepts** (LARC), headed by **Michael Jenkins**, is designing the 23-acre water park which will include the usual compliment of water slides, pools and a lazy river, along with volleyball courts, zip lines and even a water fountain show.

**Sun Splash Family Water Park** in Cape Coral, Fla. will take advantage of the off-season to rebuild its main guest services building that also held a gift shop and restaurant. On July 6, the building was destroyed in an early-morning fire, forcing the water park to close for five days.

"We had no power. We had no computers. We had no point of sales system," said Manager, **Sandy Greiner**. Crews worked from 7 am to 11 pm to get the park reopened and set up temporary buildings to house guest services and concessions. Now the park has less than six months to remove the temporary structures and construct a permanent building.

On September 15, Kuwait became the first country in the Middle East to open a **Flow House**. The 10,000 square-meter **Flow House Kuwait** is located in Abu Halifa, next to the **Kuwait Magic Mall**. In addition to the requisite **Flow Rider**, Flow House Kuwait includes the **Clear Lounge Oxygen Bar**. Here guests can experience the weightlessness of being submerged in water while enjoying the flow of aromatic oxygen and partaking in fun activities such as underwater Jenga. True to its name, Clear Lounge is in a clear glass room with colored LED lamps and an underwater photo booth. Much like a giant fish tank, guests outside of the Clear Lounge can observe those inside the lounge.

The facility also includes a kids area, water slides, an outdoor gym, a Ruby Tuesday's restaurant, and 36 surf-themed cabins available for day use.

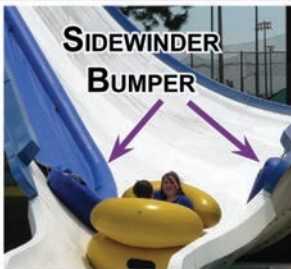
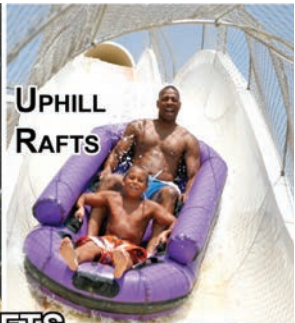
The city of **Canyon, Texas**, has accepted a contractor's bid for a new **Aquatic Center**, allowing the project to move forward. Plans now call for the aquatic center to open sometime next summer. City officials are not giving any firm dates, indicating there are too many variables, such as the weather, that can affect the project. The aquatic center is being funded by a \$6 million bond approved by voters last November. The first bids were all too high, so the city staff modified the original design. The accepted bid of \$6,037,777 will bring the total cost of the project to nearly \$6,250,000 after the addition of landscaping and other items. The city has pledged to fund up to \$250,000 over what the bond does not cover. If costs exceed that amount, then the city will look to private donors.

**WaterWorks Park** in Redding, Calif. will be home to a new wave pool in 2017. Construction has already begun on a new pool 130 feet in length, encompassing a 15,000 square-foot area. **Aquatic Development Group** (ADG) is designing the pool which will be able to produce 16 different types of waves, utilizing a computer controlled system.





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# Massive Yinji Xinmi Waterpark opens in China

**WhiteWater West completes largest order of waterslides in company history**

**AT: Jeffrey Seifert**  
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HENAN, China — Yinji Xinmi Waterpark opened its doors to the public in June 2016. The colossal 42-acre water park is the first phase of an immense 16,000-acre Yinji International Tourist Resort still under development.

Themed to the classic Jules Verne science fiction novel *"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,"* the park features four zones, representing different adventures encountered by Captain Nemo, the novel's main protagonist.

WhiteWater collaborated closely with Henan Yinji Xuanyuan Shengjing Culture Tourism Co. to develop a combination of rides and themes to mimic the worlds Nemo encountered on his journeys from a "Fantasy Carol" with little mermaids to "Stuart Island Adventure" replete with giant jellyfish. Each attraction features sea creatures to accentuate the structures and help bring Captain Nemo's fanciful adventures to life.

Yinji invested over CA\$34 million in WhiteWater products making it the largest single order in the company's 37-year history.

The park features a broad range of attractions for guests

of all ages and some of the attractions are duplicated to provide increased capacity for what is likely to become one of the most popular water parks in China. The park claims it can accommodate 32,000 people at peak capacity.

Attractions include two large AquaPlay structures, dueling Master Blasters, two Abyss water slides, China's first fusion AquaSphere+Manta, another fusion Boomerango+Manta, a fusion combining three AquaSpheres and a multi-lane extended Whizzard Racer. Complementing the plethora of slides are three wave pools, an extreme river and a wave river.

Of the three wave pools, Surf Waves is capable of producing 3.8 meter (12.5-foot) waves. Thrill seekers can also challenge China's first LatiTube at an attraction dubbed Wild Surfing. First introduced in Australia — where there are now two — LatiTube give riders the thrill of surfing without the fear of wiping out or falling. The flow of water comes straight from the ride surface, which has a gentle angle allowing riders to simply step off their board when necessary.

Operators use a handheld, waterproof radio remote that allows the operator to fully engage with the riders.

Surfers begin each turn with the ride in a low energy state, the rider assumes their

► See CHINA, page 23

## WhiteWater West recognized by Chinese Themed Attractions Operators

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — **WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd.** was nominated by Chinese themed attractions operators as part of the Asia Attractions Awards for Outstanding Suppliers. During the awards ceremony June 12, in Shanghai hosted by Asia Attractions, WhiteWater was recognized with the Best Large Water Rides Supplier Award.

The awards program was initiated and organized by **L&A International**, an organization aiming to facilitate business opportunities between Chinese and Western companies within the leisure and attractions industry.

In a press release WhiteWater stated, "We are honored to receive this recognition and are very proud to work with groups such as Samsung Everland, Wanda, OCT, Chimelong, Yinji, Malpani, and Waterbom to name a few to develop world class water parks that tourists and locals alike will enjoy for many years to come."

WhiteWater has been active in the Asian amusement market for over a decade, with a local office in Shanghai since 2011. WhiteWater works alongside some of the world's largest developers to make their water park and attractions ambitions become a reality.



WhiteWater West has delivered to the newly opened Yinji Xinmi Waterpark in Henan, China its largest single order of slides in company history. Here is one of the combo slide towers featuring the Manta plus Boomerango Fusion slide. Below, the Abyss slide dominates the opposite side of the same tower. Bottom, more thrilling slide action awaits with the trio AquaSphere slide. COURTESY WHITEWATER





A large, multi-lane water slide with yellow and green tracks, supported by a metal structure, with several people sliding down. The slide is set against a backdrop of lush green trees.

With the upcoming addition of TailSpin Racer, an impressive lineup of water-based attractions, and fun at every splash, Dollywood's Splash Country is an ideal place to beat the heat in the Smoky Mountains.



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# Three Six Flags water parks to see additions in 2017

*ProSlide picked for all three park projects; Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec sees multiple additions*

AT: Tim Baldwin  
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## NEXT ISSUE:

Six Flags new for 2017  
ride mix continues

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — On September 1, Six Flags Entertainment announced new additions to the chain of parks for 2017. Among them were new water park installations.

Leading the pack is Thunder Rapids, a new uphill water coaster from ProSlide being installed at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. The park boasts it is the first of its kind in the U.S.

"The RocketBlast water coaster marries technology from our LIM coasters with turbine technology to take water propulsion coasters to a whole new level," said Andreas Tanzer, director of research, design and standards for ProSlide. "It has 100 percent more capacity with three and four person boats, and uses 50 per cent less energy and water consumption."

Jeffrey Siebert, park president, is excited about the maintained speed throughout the attraction's course. "It really gives a race car feel to the ride experience," he said. Noting that many water coasters have slower curves, Thunder Rapids will have riders really banked high during the curved saucer portions. Siebert feels this is a game changer in the water coaster field.

Instead of curving water-slide sections, Thunder Rapids will use ProSlides saucers for the high speed turns.

"The precise roll and pitch of the saucer creates maximum speed and centrifugal force," added Phil Hayles, ProSlide's vice president of business development. "The



Above, the water park at Six Flags Fiesta Texas will see the addition of Thunder Rapids, a new uphill water coaster that will be the first of its kind in the United States. Below, the rebranding of a Mexico water park into Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec will include multiple slide additions highlighted by this RideHouse play structure. All are from ProSlide.

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sensation simulates Super-G skiers carving a line along the outer edges of the ride. It is a completely distinctive design and ride experience."

The 15-degree gradient also allows riders to glimpse over the headwall edge of the ride before becoming glued to the wall in high speed. The ride can also have 100 percent steeper hills than conventional water blast coasters.

Also of note is that riders will ride the conveyor up the initial incline eliminating the need for steps. This makes it a more attractive attraction to those that are physically challenged. Hayles believes its low-to-the-ground action also gives the ride a sleeker appearance, realizing the structure to most waterslides are the least of its aesthetic components.

ProSlide is also involved in the rebranding of an existing water park into Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec near Six Flags Mexico. Major additions include an interactive play structure, a Tornado 60 and a custom-designed Behemoth-Bowl 40 + TornadoWave.

Riders will begin their ride experience on the yet unnamed slide, alternating between enclosed and open water slide channels before swirling into a bowl portion of the ride. As they drop through the bowl's center, the plunge will send visitors up a TornadoWave wall where weightlessness is felt. Dropping off the wave wall, riders travel through one last enclosed section into a splashpool. The



enclosed portions will feature both opaque segments as well as translucent ones. The colors of the attraction mix deep orange, yellow and coral pattern segments.

"The first combination of these features was at Six Flags Over Georgia, which actually won an IAAPA award for Best New Water Ride," Hayles told *Amusement Today*. "Mexico's installation is an enhancement of this slide."

The Tornado 60 will come off the same tower and utilize the same catch pool. Both attractions will be the first such rides in all of Mexico.

The play structure, RideHouse, features several family slides, fanciful theming, interactive elements, as well as the iconic tipping bucket drenching all standing below. It is the

first one built by ProSlide for Six Flags.

Other aesthetic upgrades will be made throughout the park including a revamp of the main entry and retail center.

The Great Escape in Lake George, N.Y. will also be adding Bonzai Pipelines. A pair of Twister bodyslides, the serpentine slides will have guests racing through nearly 300 feet of banked turns from 30 feet in the air. The new addition will be the 13th attraction in Splashwater Kingdom, the water park included with admission to The Great Escape.

As *AT* went to press, the colors of the ride had yet to be determined. Bonzai Pipelines will be retrofitted off another ProSlide tower at the park.



# Water Works new water park area opens at Hershey Lodge

## Existing indoor/ outdoor swimming area upgraded

**AT:** B. Derek Shaw

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HERSHEY, Pa. — For 2016, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center debuted 30,000 square-feet of family water park fun on Memorial Day weekend at the resort a few miles from Hersheypark. Dubbed Hershey's Water Works at Hershey Lodge, the area is an updated and expanded water attraction that is exclusive and complimentary for overnight lodge guests.

The upgrade includes six slides, two indoor pools, a dancing waters element, fitness center, arcade room, cabana dining area, activity room, whirlpool and bathrooms. Theming makes use of Hershey's product characters along with a few design elements reminiscent of the Boardwalk waterpark inside Hersheypark. Some of the interactive water features include a zero entry pool, sand castle spray zone, lighthouse tipping bucket and basketball

hoops. Two thirds of the area (20,000 square-feet) is devoted to aquatics elements.

"Our team is thrilled to open Hershey's Water Works at Hershey Lodge," said Frank Gilbert, retiring general manager of Hershey Lodge. Incoming General Manager of Hershey Lodge, Jason Heath said, "We take guest feedback very seriously and are excited to offer this one-of-a-kind indoor pool experience. There are very familiar and beloved brands in our complex thanks to a fantastic collaboration with The Hershey Company."

Hershey's Water Works at Hershey Lodge replaces the previous indoor and lower outdoor pools that had been there since a 1975 expansion. Hershey Lodge first opened in 1967. The upper outdoor pool operates from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. Hershey Lodge partnered with Architectural Design Consultants, Inc. and Water Tech for design and architecture. Pyramid Construction was the building contractor. The estimated project cost is \$13 million.



The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center completed the new enclosed Water Works water park attraction in time for summer guests to enjoy. The project cost \$13 million.

COURTESY  
THE HERSHEY LODGE



## FAST FACTS

### Name/Location

Water Works at  
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa.

### Complex Size

30,000 square feet with  
20,000 square feet of  
aquatics features

### Opened / Capacity

May 26, 2016 / 781 guests

### Admission

Free for lodge guests

### Aquatics Features

Two pools; Twizzler Twist  
slides (partly outside);  
Reese's Water Walk; water play  
structure; outdoor  
splash pad and Whirlpool

### Additional Features

Fitness Center; arcade;  
Cocoa Cabana dining  
location with full bar and wait  
service; activity room  
and bathrooms

### Contractors

Architectural Design  
Consultants, Lake Delton, Wis.;  
Water Tech, Beaver Dam, Wis.;  
ProSlide, Ottawa, Canada;  
**Play Time**, Englewood, Colo.;  
Pyramid Construction,  
Lemoyne, Pa.;  
Hershey Landscaping,  
Hershey, Pa.

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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Valleyfair celebrates 40th — Page 30 / Worlds of Fun adds 5 rides — Page 34 / Fairs — Pages 38-41

## Centennial Wheel gives Navy Pier new icon

*Dutch Wheels, Vekoma supplies wheel for pier's 100th anniversary*

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

CHICAGO, Ill. — Navy Pier went spinning into its 100th anniversary on May 27, kicking off a number of celebratory activities — all under a new soaring 197-foot wheel.

Named the Centennial Wheel in celebration of the 100-year-old leisure destination's birthday, this new icon is almost 50 feet taller than the wheel it replaced, which had been in place since 1995.

The new wheel, as well as the old, was manufactured by Dutch Wheels, a member of the Vekoma Rides Company.

"In honor of Navy Pier's 100th anniversary, we decided to undergo a pier-wide redevelopment, which included a new Ferris wheel," said Payal Patel, public relations specialist. "We simply wanted to provide our guests with an enhanced, year-round experi-



**In celebration of its 100th anniversary, Navy Pier, located in downtown Chicago, opened a new 197-foot tall observation wheel. The wheel was supplied by Dutch Wheels and Vekoma. It opened during the Memorial Day weekend to start the 2016 summer season. COURTESY NAVY PIER**

ence. And, this new wheel offers just that."

Navy Pier's new wheel cost about \$26.5 million, with about half of that for the wheel itself. It was privately financed by a loan to Navy Pier Inc., a not-for-profit organization that maintains and oversees Navy Pier, which includes 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, and exposition facilities.

Some of the features of the new attraction include: 42 climate-controller gondolas that can hold up to eight adults and two children; each gondola has leather-cushioned individual seating, and an entertainment system with interactive video screens that play interesting facts during the ride.

"There is one VIP gondola that seats four people and offers a unique perspective through its glass bottom," Patel said.

The new wheel also fea-

tures a start/stop system instead of a continuous rotation system like the one it replaced.

"The start/stop system stops the wheel seven times to load six gondolas, which then lets the wheel operator set a number of rotations for the wheel," Patel said. "This system creates a better experience during the load sequence, because the wheel will stop, giving riders time to experience the heights and the views."

The wheel is part of Dutch Wheels' White-Series concept, which were created especially for stand-alone attractions and centered around customer experience.

The White-Series wheels have a unique appearance with its six robust legs and spokes that widen at the end. This typical spoke design is to accommodate larger gondolas, yet allows the wheel to be packed in regular containers for efficient transportation.

The design incorporates

many safety features. It allows for easy evacuation of the passengers in case of a main axle bearing problem. The thick and robust columns represent a construction that is able to deal with extreme conditions and it is built to impress.

Opening to an abundant crowd over Memorial Day weekend, Navy Pier had offered advanced tickets to ride the wheel online. Tickets for adults for single rides are \$15, with military and children 3-11 years costing \$12. A Centennial Wheel Fast Pass is \$25. The VIP gondola is \$50 per person or \$200 for the gondola.

Promotions to "Ride the Wheel Free" were held from 10 a.m. to noon, two days in June and two days in August. Other special promotions and group rates are available.

Originally built in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, Navy Pier is located on Lake Michigan and is one of the most top-attended leisure destinations in the Midwest. It stretches more than six city blocks and draws more than eight million guests annually.

Additional rides at Navy Pier include a Wave Swinger, Carousel, Light Tower Ride, and remote control boats.

Other celebratory events include: the unveiling of the transformation of the entrance into the Polk Brothers Fountain and Plaza; the completed transformation of the South Dock, an open space, environmentally friendly space; and an expanded South Arcade featuring uninhibited views of the lake with a curvaceous "wave wall" and provides a variety of Chicago cuisine.

### Former Navy Pier wheel now spinning in Branson

BRANSON, Mo. — The iconic 147-foot wheel that was replaced this year by the larger 196-foot observation wheel at Chicago's Navy Pier opened here in June to a brand-new market.

Management at Track Family Fun Parks, which has four amusement locations in Branson, added the wheel to its main drag location along Highway 76.

Now being billed as the Branson Ferris Wheel, it was constructed by the same manufacturer as the new Navy Pier wheel, Dutch Wheels, a member of the Vekoma Rides Company.

Vekoma had purchased the older wheel back from Navy Pier and resold it to Track Parks. Vekoma also transported the wheel to Branson and erected it on a former miniature golf course.

Craig Westcott, president and CEO, Tracks Parks, said it was a no-brainer for them to purchase the iconic structure from Navy Pier when the opportunity arrived.

The project cost Track \$4 million, half of that for the wheel itself, the rest for siting and improvements, which included a new main axle and bearings, and a new paint job. It originally opened in Chicago in 1995 and had given rides to nearly 16 million since then.

Now one of the tallest structures in the tourist city, the Branson Ferris Wheel has 40 gondolas that can hold up to six passengers each, with a capacity of 240 passengers.

—Pam Sherborne

### FAST FACTS

**Navy Pier  
Centennial Wheel**  
Chicago, Ill.

Manufactured by **Dutch Wheels**, a member of the **Vekoma Rides Mfg.**

Height: 196 feet;  
42 gondolas, seats up to 8 adults and 2 children;  
Maximum load:  
414 total passengers;  
Gondolas are climate controlled;  
Operates on the start/stop system

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## Halloween tour enlivens real-life 'haunted' mansion

# Winchester Mystery House offers eerie frights by candlelight

**AT:** Dean Lamanna  
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SAN JOSE, Calif. — Since its completion in 1922, the Winchester Mystery House has piqued the curiosity of locals and roadside attraction devotees with its sprawling, seemingly haphazard design and moody Late Victorian style. Its frequent showcasing by supernatural-themed television programs over the decades has fueled its reputation as one of America's most "haunted" mansions.

On a purely architectural level, the privately owned estate — a California Historic State Landmark that also is listed on the National Register of Historic Places — offers plenty that truly meets the eye.

The home, originally just a small farmhouse, was a 38-year project of Sarah Winchester, heir to the Winchester Repeating Rifle fortune. The grieving widow, who reportedly believed she had to appease the ghosts of those who were killed by the company's product, continuously built onto the structure. She spent a then-astronomical \$5 million on what ultimately became a 24,000-square-foot abode featuring 160 rooms, 2,000 doors, 10,000 panes of glass, nine kitchens, 13 bath-



**The Winchester Mystery House (left), a private estate completed in 1922, is playing up its supernatural reputation with its first-ever Halloween Candlelight Tours starting Oct. 7.**  
COURTESY WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

rooms, and a few dozen stairways and fireplaces.

The property's unusual characteristics, including several doorways and staircases that lead to nowhere, helped foster its fame for alleged paranormal activity. Even

*Time* magazine has called it one of the most "haunted" places in the world.

Long available for tours (it has hosted over 10 million visitors), the Winchester Mystery House for the first time this month is introducing

Halloween Candlelight Tours — an immersive nighttime experience allowing guests to explore the mansion guided only by flickering candlelight and their imagination.

Halloween touches have been added to the home's

many rooms, which are either frozen in a state of arrested decay or still resplendent in Victorian grandeur. Candlelight tour guests will encounter an atmosphere heavy with foreboding as an unseen presence seems to be watching at all times.

"There are numerous Halloween attractions that pop-up in October, but we're the real year-round deal," said Walter Magnuson, general manager of Winchester Mystery House. "This Halloween we're enhancing what's already here with an all-new macabre, atmospheric and truly creepy overlay."

"Some kind of paranormal force will definitely be awakened within the house, much to the shock of guests," added Peter Overstreet, creative director of the Halloween offering. "It is both a physical visit and a great example of 'theater of the mind,' where your imagination is coerced to fill in the blanks to even more frightful effect."

Visitors can experience Halloween Candlelight Tours at Winchester Mystery House during the evenings of Oct. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-31. Tickets range in price from \$35 to \$49 and are available online.

•[winchestermysteryhouse.com](http://winchestermysteryhouse.com)

## Adventuredome at Circus Circus opens two theater experiences

### Ice Age: No Time for Nuts 4-D and Pacific Rim Motion Movie Experience

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The Adventuredome at Circus Circus Las Vegas recently unveiled two new theater experiences set to entertain visitors of all ages.

The mammoth new 4-D theatrical experience *Ice Age: No Time For Nuts 4-D* inside the F/X Theatre is an eye-popping adventure following the beloved pre-historic squirrel Scrat on an epic odyssey in time travel. From the Colosseum of Ancient Rome to the disco dance floor, Scrat survives everything from Excalibur to the Titanic as he chases after his beloved acorn that's been accidentally lost in



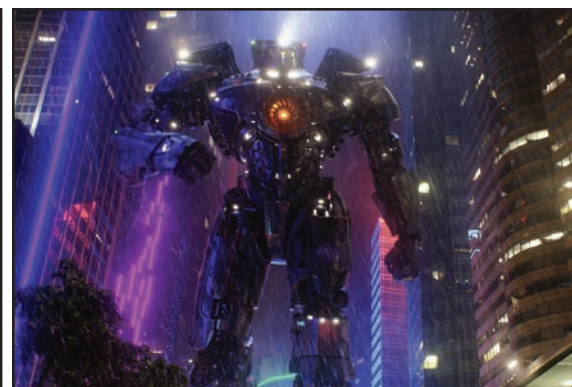
**The Adventuredome at Circus Circus in Las Vegas recently opened two new theater experiences: *Ice Age: No Time For Nuts 4-D* (left) and *Pacific Rim Motion Movie Experience*.**  
COURTESY CIRCUS CIRCUS ADVENTUREDOME

time.

The fully immersive, high energy, nine-minute show was custom created by Blue Sky Studios, Fox Animation and 20th Century Fox Consumer Products in partnership with SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment. Featuring exclusive new footage, *Ice Age: No Time For Nuts 4-D* is presented in high-def-

inition 3-D projection combined with in-theater special effects to further engage all the audience's senses.

*Pacific Rim Motion Movie Experience* is the newest feature to play in The Adventuredome's Extreme Ride Theatre. Without warning, monstrous creatures have risen from the sea, attacked



cities and threaten mankind. In a unified show of force, the world's most powerful nations have joined together and built massive robot fighting machines. In a no holds barred brawl, the last standing massive robot fighter — Earth's final weapon — takes on the biggest and baddest of the monsters. Buckle up for

an intense ride film experience with the heart-pounding action, ground-shaking motion and explosive special effects of *Pacific Rim Motion Movie Experience*.

"We are thrilled to bring the new *Ice Age* and *Pacific Rim* experiences to Circus Circus," said Tom Nolan, vice president of operations for The Adventuredome. "We understand the importance of keeping our rides and attractions fresh, exciting and fun for our guests, those new and returning. The *Ice Age* and *Pacific Rim* characters are great fits as they're well known and appeal to both families and adults."

The F/X Theatre and Extreme Ride Theatre are included in The Adventuredome's all-day pass or individual ride tickets also are available.

•[circuscircus.com](http://circuscircus.com)



# Valleyfair celebrates 40th anniversary

## New Larson International Flying Scooter marks return of original park ride

AT: Tim Baldwin  
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SHAKOPEE, Minn. — While it may not have grown to the gargantuan proportions of some of the sister parks in the Cedar Fair chain, Valleyfair celebrated this summer, its 40th anniversary and the community joined in for the special season.

"I think the opportunity we have with our 40th anniversary was one that turned into a season long celebration," Matt Hehl, communications, told *Amusement Today*. "We celebrated every day from opening day until we close in October. We opened an exhibit with the historical society [see sidebar]. We looked at it as a season long celebration of 40 years of just fun and our heritage in the Twin Cities market. Anybody who lives within 200 miles of here knows someone who has worked here or has worked here themselves. There are countless marriages of people who spent summers here. We have a lot of legacies right here in the park."

"We consider this park to be an education center that just happens to be fun," added Hehl. "We worked with our area high schools. We brought high school interns in to work on things like graphic design or safety and security. They were able to get that real world experience while they are in high school."

For the 2016 season, the park rebuilt both trains on the High Roller wooden coaster, the park's original roller coaster ride built in 1976. Some of the old components were used in constructing a High Roller car for the historical exhibit, running through October.

For the summer season, Valleyfair brought in All Wheels Extreme, and high-energy show that was a finalist on "America's Got Talent." The outdoor show featured inline skaters, skateboarders and BMX bicycle performers. Dancers, trampoline artists and aerialists add a theatrical element to create an electrifying experience. To accompany the production of this show,

the park invested into the performance venue.

"We had an older amphitheater with a smaller stage and the ADA seating wasn't here. We totally cleaned it all out and put in a multi-purpose stage," said Dave Frazier, vice president and general manager. "We can do interaction and more action type items here. I have found out this market is really into the BMX bikes and skateboard shows. A few of our performers are from this area; one was a gold medal winner in the X Games. We can get about 3,000 in here now."

The show opened June 18 and ran until mid-August. The venue was then utilized as a haunt show during Valley-SCARE.

Flying Eagles is a new Larson Flying Scooters ride placed in an area of the park that features many classic midway rides.

"The great thing about adding them for our 40th anniversary is that this ride was here in 1976 when we opened," said Hehl. "It was part of our original ride package. Parents can now bring their kids out and say 'I rode this when this park opened' and now can ride together with their kids. It fits so perfectly with our 40th anniversary."

Cedar Fair has invested heavily in the Flying Scooter attractions in their parks' midway lineup of rides. Since Larson International has reintroduced the ride in the past decade, it has become a hot item.

"To date, Larson International, Inc. has delivered 30 Flying Scooters and we are currently beginning production of several more for next spring installs," Jeff Novotny, president of Larson International, told AT.

Valleyfair also had a few nostalgic photos of the park enlarged along the walkways to help accent the anniversary celebration.

Valleyfair was the second park in the Cedar Fair family, which is how the chain achieved its name between the two parks: Cedar Point and Valleyfair.



The new Flying Eagles, a Larson International Flying Scooter, is a throwback to one of Valleyfair's original rides. AT/TIM BALDWIN

## Valleyfair history exhibit opens

SHAKOPEE, Minn. — The community around Valleyfair has joined in the park's 40th anniversary celebration. Opened in April and running through October, the Scott County Historical Society in Shakopee has a room dedicated at the Stans Museum to Valleyfair's 40 years of history. The park has worked in conjunction with the Historical Society for a look back through time.

Front and center is a restored High Roller car from its old style trains. Visitors are able to scramble inside for photo opportunities. The four decades of history is illustrated through photos, documents and captions on panels on the wall.

There are even interactive elements where visitors can play carnival games such as a ring toss. The Historical Society, formed in 1968, likes to have interactive elements to all their exhibits.

"We started about a year ago. We started working on the concept and started doing research with Valleyfair," said Kathleen Klehr, executive director.

"I've heard people share their own memories



of the park as they walk through the exhibit," Stefanie Herrick, curator of education, told *Amusement Today*. "Lots of people remember the Dolly Dolphin show when the park first opened. It's fun to hear people talk about their own memories."

Another large component to the exhibit is a mascot costume from the early years of Colonel John Phillips Ohoompapa.

Staff members have noted former employees have visited as well.

Valleyfair opened three years following the closure of a previous property, Excelsior Amusement Park. It was located on Lake Minnetonka. Valleyfair's PTC carousel was preserved from this park.

Above, panels detailed Valleyfair's history, as well as large objects such as the High Roller Car engage visitors. Below, Colonel John Phillips Ohoompapa, a mascot from the park's early years is displayed. AT/TIM BALDWIN







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# Six Flags Fiesta Texas thinks outside the box for Halloween

## Six Flags VR expands with Rage of the Gargoyles

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Six Flags Entertainment Corp. enthusiastically rolled out the virtual reality experience on coasters at nine of its parks this season.

Three parks that did not have the VR experience available before are bringing it online for Fright Fest. The theme for the Halloween event is Rage of the Gargoyles. In this new variation, riders have a chance to actually destroy attacking gargoyles by fixating their gaze upon their attackers.

"Many of our sister parks introduced VR earlier this year to rave reviews," said Kristin Siebeneicher, communications manager, Six Flags Great Adventure. We are thrilled that Rage of the Gargoyles will bring innovative, cutting-edge technology to a classic coaster celebrating its 20th anniversary this year."

Six Flags Great Adventure will be utilizing the VR Gear by Samsung on its Skull Mountain indoor coaster.

"Adding VR to Skull Mountain will take this family coaster to a new level, and give thrill seekers another must-do ride for Fright Fest," Siebeneicher said.

VR is a really cool burst of technology for one of the oldest roller coasters at our park, the Demon," said Katy Enrique, communications manager, Six Flags Great America. "While the Demon gives over one million rides annually, there was definitely room to fit the VR component to its ride experience."

Kathy Chan at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom told Amusement Today, "We are enhancing the track of Kong to realign some areas to make it a smoother experience. In addition, we are modifying the harnesses to make it more comfortable to work with the VR Gear."

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SAN ANTONIO, Texas — As evidenced by the enormous explosion of Halloween events, not just in the U.S., but around the world, the holiday of spooks is big business. Six Flags Fiesta Texas takes a big leap this season, stepping out of the box that differs greatly from the park's sister properties.

How Halloween events are structured varies from park to park. Chains have the option to open the event only to hard ticket sales and no season passes, or they can let in season pass holders in, but haunted houses may be included or be an upcharge attraction. Six Flags Fiesta Texas has made a bold move. After years of haunted houses being upcharge attractions in the chain, the park is offering not only all haunted houses this season for free, but is adding two more new ones, bringing the total of mazes to five. In addition, a new scare zone is added, making for ten total haunted attractions now included in the price of admission.

"Our new Buried Alive Haunted House exposes eerie tunnels and passageways long forgotten beneath Crackaxe Canyon," said Public Relations Manager Sydne Purvis. "A complete colony of the un-dead beckons you through the labyrinth of catacombs to discover skeleton ghosts of miners that ventured before you."

The grim environment will also feature a carousel of the impaled, a hall of maggots guests must step through and a finale of a bizarre ritual at the skeleton altar.

A second new haunted house is Torture Chamber. As one would expect, each corridor is filled with reminders of what sub-humans will go to as they seemingly enjoy inflicting pain and terror on their prey.

"We believe both will make great additions to our other popular haunted houses: RockKill High School, Slaughterhouse 6 and Fear House 3D," said Purvis. "We do constantly strive to improve our entertainment offerings, whether that occurs through new, innovative tech-



As part of its entertainment lineup for Fright Fest, Six Flags Fiesta Texas is rolling out this new show, Monster Bash.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

nology, planning with our management teams or receiving guest insights."

Among the innovative upgrades is projection video mapping. In Wicked Hollow, a new scare zone, this new technology will utilize the walls of Spassburg buildings to bring the existing castles to life. Images will include fire, dragons, deranged puppets and walking skeletons.

Ben McTyre, director of entertainment, is particularly excited about the 2016 season. Not only does his department oversee the newly expanded terror in the zones and haunted houses, but also the live entertainment in the show venues.

"What we're going for with our new show, Dead Man's Party, is fun," said McTyre. "Halloween themed songs are featured in a set-up where a group of people got a hold of some poisoned drinks and every year they get together for one night on

Halloween, ergo Dead Man's Party. It's a lot of classic, fan-favorite stuff."

The show opens with an Alanis Morissette tune, "Uninvited," and will continue on with other slanted adaptations such as "I Put a Spell On You" by CCR, Michael Jackson's "Thriller," and "Phantom of the Opera." The closer is "Ball Room Blitz," a popular song the park has featured in shows before.

The nights conclude with Monster Mash Bash, the park's spectacular outdoor concert that features 23 performers, as all show casts come together for the long-running, popular finale.

"We put a big slide up at the end of the show last year that said 'To be continued in 2016.' The storyline was set in a post-apocalyptic future after a meteor strike," McTyre told *Amusement Today*. "We had two factions. The way we left the show last year, the 'Survivors' won that round, and this

year 'The Authority' fights back."

Each year, the 45-minute show is completely revamped with a new playlist that includes classic rockers along with new songs from the current year. "There will be a little more of a monster spin on it this year," said McTyre.

In all, four different Halloween shows feature live singers, dancers and musicians.

"I feel blessed to work in a park that has a wonderful tradition of doing great shows and has the facilities to put on the really fantastic shows that we do. We have amazing, talented people. Everyone who comes to work here in the summer wants to stay on and do Fright Fest and Monster Mash Bash."

With all the attractions being included for free for the first time, Fiesta Texas is expecting great guest reaction. "We wanted to make these attractions available to the greatest number of guests possible," said Purvis.

"Going into this Halloween season with our biggest Fright Fest event in park history, I know our guests are going to be blown away," said Park President Jeffrey Siebert. "I'm loving this state-of-the-art horrifying technology, and the three new haunted attractions will be outstanding."

Incidentally, The Great Escape, another Six Flags property, is following in Fiesta Texas' footsteps and including their haunted attractions free with admission.



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# Five new rides at Worlds of Fun expand Planet Snoopy

## Zamperla and Larson provide new ride mix

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Zamperla and Larson International have delivered five new rides to Worlds of Fun this season. Broadening their family offerings, parents and young children can ride together on all new attractions.

In 2011, the park converted their previous kids area into the new Planet Snoopy. Now with this year's addition of five new rides, the section offers 21 family-style rides, most of which will accommodate both parents and adults.

"We are extremely pleased with the new layout and feel of the rides package added to Planet Snoopy in 2016," said David Bywater, director of park operations at Worlds of Fun. "The five new attractions add diversity to the thrills for adults and children alike. Ridership and guest activity is most definitely up in the Planet Snoopy area."

Zamperla supplied four of the five rides.

Beagle Brigade Airfield is a Flying Tigers ride, which is unique to that part of the country. Suspended from overhead, the plane vehicles have the signature swing-out similar to the classic Whip rides of the past.



"We are extremely pleased to have the first Cedar Fair Flying Tigers, or in our case Beagle Brigade Airfield," said Bywater. "Children love airplanes and to have a ride with suspended airplanes is fantastic. Kids love the ride when the planes kick-out while going around the oblong track."

A Kite Flyer is decorated as Linus Launcher. Riders of all ages lay in an angled position as the ride rises and oscillates. When introduced at the IAAPA show in 1999, it was this ride that was winner of Best New Family Ride at the following Expo in 2000. Worlds of Fun's installation seats 16 riders.

Linus Launcher has given the best reactions, normally from the parents!" smiled Eric Burke, public relations manager for Worlds of Fun. "They stand in line intending to just

**Zamperla provided four of the five new rides at Worlds of Fun's Planet Snoopy section this season.**

**Above, parents and kids on Beagle Brigade Airfield (Flying Tigers) enjoy a fun whip around each end.**

**Above right, the Kite Flyer has been themed as Linus Launcher. Right, a ride on the Snoopy Junction train ride is always fun for all.**

AT/TIM BALDWIN



ride along with their child, but when it's over, sometimes the biggest smiles are on the faces of the adults!"

Geared to even younger tastes, but parents can still join in on the fun is Snoopy's Space Buggies, a Zamperla Jump Around, and Snoopy Junction, a small train ride.

"Several of the new rides gave us some surprises," not-

ed Bywater. "Snoopy's Space Buggies has some great bounce to the ride which was far more dynamic than anticipated."

Catering to older kids might be Woodstock Gliders, a Flying Scooters from Larson International. Here, the guest is in control with the interactive fin component that can elevate and soar in response to each rider's actions.

"The Larson Flying Scooters adds a large punch to our rides package in a pretty small footprint," said Bywater. "It has all the thrills of a major attraction without the major attraction price. The ride has a smooth startup and finish which allows many of our guests that might have some disabilities to ride. The ride itself is very reliable and has had zero mechanical downtime so far this season."

"Woodstock Gliders has brought in the highest number of older kids," added Burke. "It may be a favorite of the 'twens' who visit the park. It has a thrill many didn't expect, and definitely helps pass the time between rollercoasters while their younger siblings get to play for a while."

Two children's rides were removed to make way for the 2016 additions. Krazy Kars, a children's bumper car ride, and Snoopy's Moon Bounce

were both heavily affected by the weather. The park also explained small children would sometimes struggle to understand how to drive the bumper cars.

With Planet Snoopy just five years old, *Amusement Today* asked why this seemed to be the right time for an expansion. "We are always looking for ways to expand and provide a better guest experience every year," Burke told AT. "When we realized we had a chance to change the landscape of Planet Snoopy and grow in size, it was a no doubter."

"Thrills come in all sizes," said Vice President and General Manager Frank Wilburn. "It's important that we continue to create the best family environment."

"All five new rides are like my kids," laughed Burke. "They arrived off the shipping containers in early January, my first week as public relations manager. In a very short period of time, I saw ground moved, concrete poured and the rides go in one by one. The amount of pride I felt when we loaded them on opening weekend was amazing. I tell people I have a FUN job, and seeing the memories the five new rides help create is one of the many reasons why."

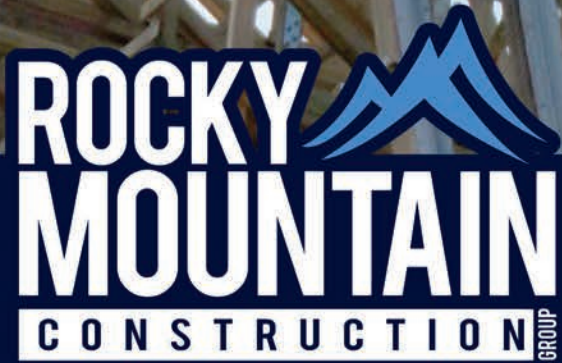


**Woodstock Gliders is a new Larson Flying Scooters added to Worlds of Fun's Planet Snoopy. The ride has been ultra popular with the tweens, but younger kids enjoy riding with parents.**  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



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# Moody Gardens announces new Cirque Joyeux Noel dinner and show

Features award  
winning performers,  
including an 'America's  
Got Talent' finalist

GALVESTON, Texas — During the Texas summer, few are thinking about the holidays, but it's already beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Moody Gardens Hotel Spa & Convention Center announces an all-new holiday dinner show experience from the producers of Lone Star Circus.

Titled Cirque Joyeux Noel Dinner and Show, this original one-hour Christmas spectacular for the entire family features a stellar cast of international circus and variety performers from all corners of the world. Presented in a "cirque" style, the show includes soaring acrobatics, gravity-defying feats, amazing aerialists, mesmerizing illusions, hilarious comedy and much more. All of this coupled with a sumptuous Holiday



Buffet Dinner prepared by renowned Moody Gardens Executive Chef Felipe Gonzalez.

"When it comes to the best in holiday entertainment, we're always finding ways to top ourselves," said Moody Gardens General Manager Garvin O'Neil. "This year is no exception with a new dinner show that is sure to delight and amaze both the young and the young at heart."

Cirque Joyeux Noel Dinner and Show is being directed by Lone Star Circus Founder and Creative Director Fanny Kerwich, an eighth-generation circus performer who has performed throughout North America, Russia, South America, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Kerwich will be bringing

to Galveston breathtaking acts that defy the boundaries of the imagination. A few of the stars of this all-new holiday extravaganza include:

- The magnificent award-winning hand balancing of Christian Stoinev, a 2014 finalist of NBC's "America's Got Talent".

- The thrilling, kinetic gymnastic prowess of the Cuban Connection on the Russian Barre.

- The spellbinding and elegant quick-change act of Evgeny Vasilenko and Anna Zgurovskaya.

- The exhilarating and inventive spins of Asaf Mor on the Cyr wheel.

- The melodic music and hosting by Michael Hix.

Cirque Joyeux Noel runs December 15-25 nightly with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., the holiday buffet beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the circus performance starting at 7:45 p.m.

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**The Margaritaville Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi is now home to the first Cloud coaster from Extreme Engineering.**  
COURTESY EXTREME ENGINEERING

## Extreme Engineering opens first Cloud Coaster

BILOXI, Miss. — Margaritaville Resort is now home to the first Cloud Coaster. The coaster made its debut on June 30 and features 230 feet of track and a top speed of 20 mph. The combination zipline/suspended roller coaster is the first of its kind. Margaritaville is a 373-room waterfront resort that features a 55,000 square-foot indoor family entertainment center with a ropes course, arcade games, volcano climbing wall, boutique bowling and golf simulators. The Cloud Coaster is attached to the ceiling structure, eliminating the need for vertical supports. Guests are

seated in comfortable, cloth seats that are attached zipline style to the overhead track.

Cloud Coaster is a product of Extreme Engineering of Penryn, Calif., and Athens, Texas. The company has been supplying rock climbing walls and auto-relay systems for more than 20 years and has grown to include combo climbing walls, air jumpers and ziplines. Last year Extreme Engineering debuted the Cloud Coaster with a working, rideable model at the 2015 IAAPA Expo in Orlando.

—Jeffrey Seifert

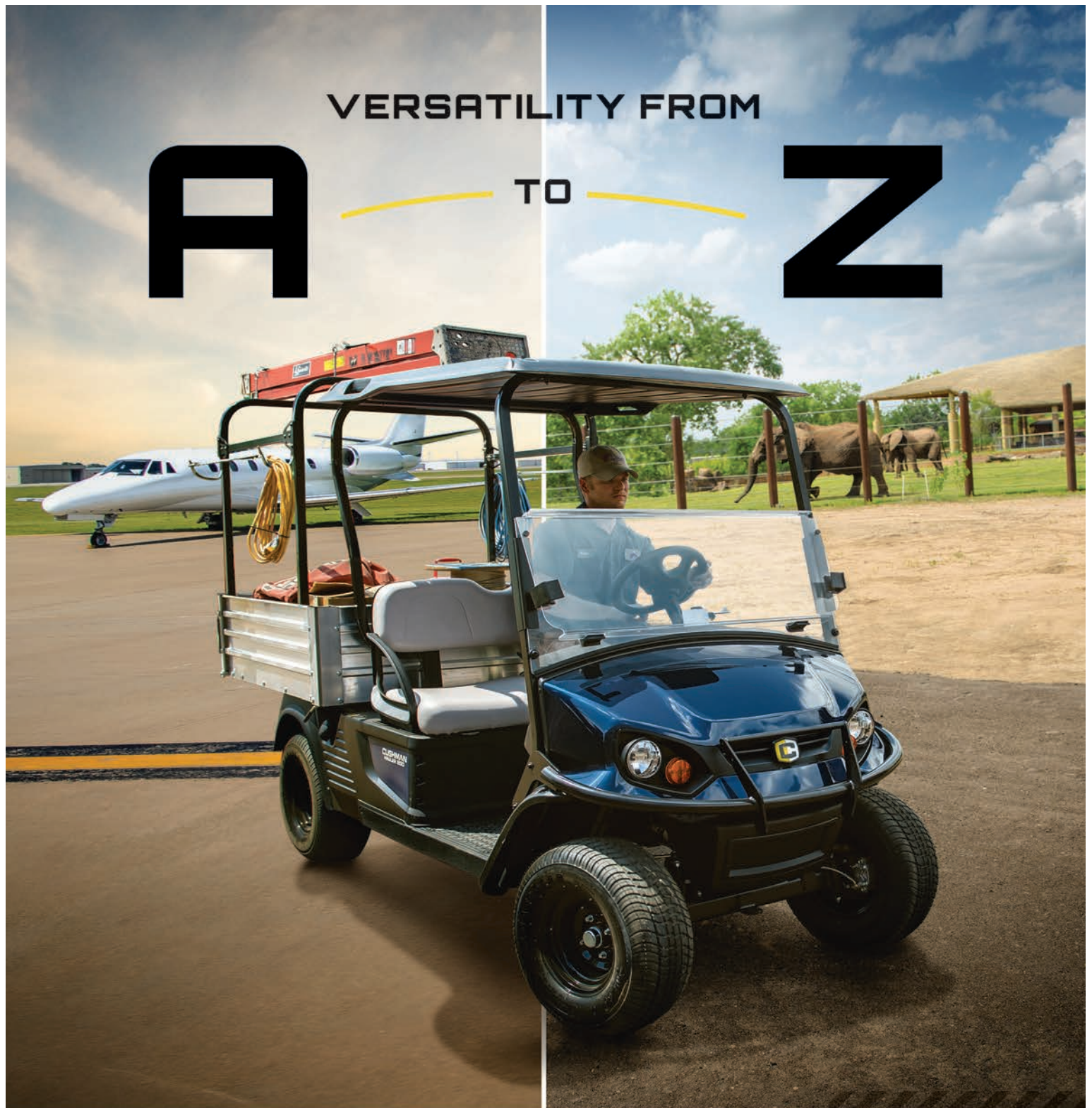
## Dollywood to debut \$2.5 million parade during Christmas

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas has long been known as one of the world's best holiday theme park events. Dolly Parton recently unveiled plans for an awe-inspiring new parade — dreamed up as only she can — which will add even more excitement to this family-favorite festival.

Named The Parade of Many Colors, the new \$2.5 million addition helps make this year's event the best and brightest in the park's history. The parade perfectly complements Dollywood's spectacular Christmas offerings which include four million festive lights, the remastered Christmas in the Smokies, the all-new It's a Wonderful Life, and the joyous holiday atmosphere guests have come to enjoy during this lively festival.

Like her new NBC holiday movie, "Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love," Parton's new parade celebrates the fun, faith, family and harmony of the holidays. Vibrant floats, interactive characters and a few other surprises help spread cheer throughout Dollywood this holiday season.

"The joy I feel during the Christmas season makes my heart sing because of the love and sweet Christmas memories I have of family and friends from when I was a child," Parton said with a smile. "Christmas is the time of year when traditions, faith and family come together to create experiences we all remember forever. That is why my new movie and this parade are so important for me. I truly believe The Parade of Many Colors will inspire some of those same lifelong memories for the families who see it."



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# Rain, hot weather causes havoc for some August fairs

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

**NORTH AMERICA** — Rain and hot humid weather has played a major role in decreasing attendances for many of U.S. fairs that ran in August.

Some fair officials reported slight dips, while the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, experienced nine days of rain during its 17-day run August 5-21.

## FAIR ROUNDUP

Below is a sampling of fair results so far in 2016. Of the eight reported here, only one, the Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, Calif., reported an increase.

### Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, Calif.

2016 dates: July 15-Aug. 14

2016 attendance: 1,344,996

2015 attendance: 1,301,975

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** Fair officials attributed the increase this year over 2015 to several factors. Weather this year remained fairly mild. There were just several days of real hot temperatures throughout the run. In 2015, there were two days of very heavy rain-fall. Entertainment and other activities also helped boost attendance as was indicated by the 34 sold-out events and the standing-room-only culinary exhibits, livestock events and more.

**Carnival:** Ray Cammack Shows

**Number of rides:** 62

**New rides:** Twister (manufactured by Wisdom) and Puppy Roll (GoldStar Manufacturing)

**New exhibits:** "We Are One" in the Visual Arts Gallery was a floor-to-ceiling interactive video animation by

artist John Mastri. He invited guests to record a short video of themselves from inside the exhibit and a short time later the video was projected in various parts on the exterior of the exhibit.

Also added this year were 10-foot-tall "OC Fair" letters near the main entrance, which became a popular stop for guests to snap a photo.

**Top food(s):** The winner of this year's Concessionaire Cup was the Chile Relleno Pretzel Burger from Tasti Chips. Popular new food items included the French Toast Bacon Bombs, Bacon-Wrapped Chicken Legs, S'Moreo Texas Donut, Chicken in a Waffle on a Stick and Dole Whip.

**Top promotion(s) based on participation were:**

Rise & Shine: \$3 admission every Saturday and Sunday 10-11 a.m.; We Care Wednesdays: Free admission and one free carnival ride with a specific donation held on each Wednesday, and OC Fair Express: Ride the OC Bus non-stop to the fair for \$4 round-trip and receive admission voucher for \$3 (nine transit locations connected throughout county). This was offered every Friday-Sunday.

•2017 dates: July 14-Aug. 13

### Kentucky State Fair, Louisville, Ky.

2016 dates: Aug. 18-28

2016 attendance: 564,937

2015 attendance: Under 600,000

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** The fair was down about 30,000 this year compared to 2015, said Amanda Storment, vice president, communications. The decrease is attributed to steady rain on the first Saturday.

Fair officials also said



Ray Cammack Shows' Grand Wheel, manufactured by Carousel Holland, illuminates the midway of the Orange County Fair, Paso Robles, Calif. COURTESY OC FAIR

this year's attendance figure is most likely the most accurate in the fair's history due to improved software and automated scanners at the entrance gates.

**Carnival:** NAME (North American Midway Entertainment)

**Number of rides:** Not available at press time

**New rides:** No new rides, however, the "Kid Around Ride Fest," the kiddie ride area, was relocated to a front parking lot of the fair. Park officials felt that move was successful.

**New exhibits:** The fair had several new educational exhibits.

**Top food(s):** Totcho's (tater tots with nacho cheese, jalapeno peppers and salsa).

**Top promotion(s):** Of particular note, said Storment, in terms of attendance, were the Military Appreciation Day, Aug. 21, and Senior Appreciation Day on Aug. 23, where free admission was given to those groups. The Carload Day, held Aug. 24, also was successful.

•2017 dates: Aug. 17-27

### Ohio State Fair, Columbus, Ohio

2016 dates: July 27-Aug. 7

2016 attendance: 921,214

2015 attendance: 982,305

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** All in all, it went pretty well, according to Alicia Shoults, marketing and public relations director.

"This was our second largest fair since we moved to a 12-day format in 2004, so we are very happy with attendance and the quality of our fair," she said. "That being said, attendance was likely down due to weather. Most days were incredibly hot with significant humidity and temperatures above 90 degrees. We had untimely rain on three or four occasions."

**Carnival:** Amusements of America

**Number of rides:** 76

**New rides:** No new rides this year.

**New exhibits:** This year's new attractions included the Arctic Olympics High Dive Show as well as the Sea Lion Splash. Both were very popular.

**Top food(s):** New cre-

ations included bacon-wrapped deep-fried Oreos and the latest addition of bacon-wrapped deep-fried Buckeyes (a chocolate and peanut butter candy). Both proved to be quite popular.

Based on gross, the 10 most popular food items were (in order): French fries, pizza, corn dogs, Lemon Shake-Up, Bulk candy, roasted corn, ice cream cones, milk shakes, barbecue meals, and Stromboli.

**Top promotion(s):** Family Value Day continues to be popular. It ran Monday, Aug. 1, from fair opening until 6 p.m. Adults were admitted for a child's admission, which is \$8, and kids 12 and under were admitted free. Also that day, with the purchase of one ride wristband, a second rider was free until 6 p.m.

•2017 dates: July 26-Aug. 6

### Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, Iowa

2016 dates: Aug. 11-21

2016 attendance: 1,031,278

2015 attendance: 1,117,398

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** Attendance was slightly down from a record year in 2015, but above the attendance in 2014.

"We attribute the difference to weather, most likely,"

► See FAIRS, page 39



Rainy and hot and humid days were the culprit of a dip in attendance at the Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, which ran Aug. 11-21. Belle City Amusements provided the midway with about 40 rides including this Giant Wheel, manufactured by Chance. COURTESY IOWA STATE FAIR

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## ► FAIRS

Continued from page 38

said the fair's Mindy Williamson. "We had a couple rainy days and very hot/humid days."

**Carnival:** Belle City Amusements

**Number of rides:** 40

**New rides:** Not available at press time.

**New exhibits:** Some new attractions and exhibits included the Hedrick's Racing Pigs, a remodeled milking parlor, the renovated Oman Family Youth Inn, and relay races.

**Top food(s):** The top three foods were Not Your Mama's Taco, Pride of Iowa Wrap and Ice Cream Nachos.

**Top promotion(s):** An opening day Canned Food discount (\$3 for 3 non-perishable canned food items) was deemed as very successful this year as were the Older Iowans Day (discount for seniors), Veterans Day (and active military discounts) and Extreme Sunday Discount on the last Sunday.

• **2017 dates:** Aug. 10-20

**Wilson County Fair, Lebanon, Tenn.**

2016 dates: Aug. 19-27

2016 attendance: 467,236

2015 attendance: 557,702

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** "It was our sixth highest attendance in our 37-year history," said Randall Clemons, fair treasurer. "Our nine-day fair had bad weather on the first weekend that caused us to be down in attendance. We were down 86,662 for the first three days. The rain on the first Saturday hurt us by 65,991. We had rain on the second Saturday afternoon for about a hour and we were down 10,789."

**Carnival:** Amusements of America

**Number of rides:** 53

**New rides:** Orbiter (Tivoli), Sea Ray (Mulligan Engineering), Starship (Wisdom), and Tea Cups (Zamperla)

**New exhibits:** Although not completed for the 2016 fair, the Wilson County Fair will be able to sport a new exhibition center at next year's fair. Clemons said the center will open next month (November) and will seat 5,000 people.

**Top food(s):** Unavailable at press time



The midway at the Kentucky State Fair, Louisville, which ran Aug. 18-28, was provided by North American Midway Entertainment. Seen here is the carnival's Starship ride, which is manufactured by Wisdom Rides.

COURTESY KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

**Top promotion(s):** The Wilson County Fair has a number of promotions such as school discount promotions, seniors day and special needs discount days.

• **2017 dates:** Aug. 18-26

**Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, Ind.**

2016 dates: Aug. 5-21

2016 attendance: 731,543

2015 attendance: 907,342

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** "We saw around nine days of precipitation during the 17 days of the fair," said Lesley Gordon, media and community relations manager. "With a record breaking attendance on the last day, with perfect weather, we believe the weather played a huge role

in the attendance this year."

**Carnival:** NAME (North American Midway Entertainment)

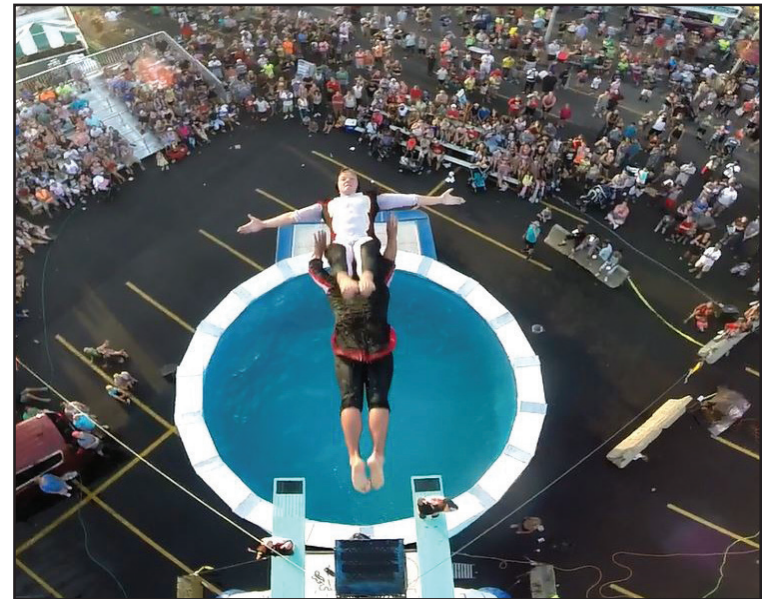
**Number of rides:** 50

**New rides:** Skater (Zamperla)

**New exhibits:** This year celebrated Indiana's Bicentennial in the Visit Indiana Bicentennial Pavilion, which featured several interactive exhibits. Another new exhibit was the Indiana's Largest Bison Field, which gave fairgoers a chance to witness the revival of the Indiana Bison.

**Top food(s):** There were 23 entries to the 2016 Taste of the Fair with Goodwin Family Products' Pig Sticks coming in first.

**Top promotion(s):** The top promotion this year was



The Ohio State Fair, Columbus, July 27-Aug. 7, 2016, saw a slight decrease in attendance this year compared to last. But, fair officials were very pleased saying that this year's number was the second largest since the fair moved to a 12-day event. A new attraction this year was the Arctic Olympics High Dive Show. Fair officials said this show was "incredibly popular." COURTESY OHIO STATE FAIR

a new one: 17 nights of Free Concerts on the Free Stage and the Free Stage Bar.

• **2017 dates:** Aug. 4-20

**Dutchess County Fair, Rhinebeck, N.Y.**

2016 dates: Aug. 23-28

2016 attendance: 362,383

2015 attendance: 394,422

**Reason for attendance increase/decrease:** Decrease in attendance attributed to excessive heat on Thursday and Friday.

**Carnival:** Powers Great American Midways

**Number of rides:** 55

**New rides:** Sea Ray (Mulligan Engineering)

**New exhibits:** Agri-Puppets, Saints of Swing (local performers), Pirates of the Columbian (high flying act), Brigade Extreme Sports, and AgVenture Tent (farm to table)

**Top food(s):** Sweet Stack Chimney Cakes, winner of both the Spork Awards and the people's choice Spork Run.

**Top promotion(s):** \$10 Tuesday, \$25 Ride All Day Wristband on Wednesday

• **2017 dates:** Aug. 22-27

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## CARNIVAL LIGHTS

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A note on the **International Association of Fairs and Expos (IAFE)** website, [www.fairsand-expos.com](http://www.fairsand-expos.com), is alerting fair members that there have been reports of telemarketers and scammers posing as IAFE staff calling members to book accommodations to Las Vegas during the annual convention.

The statement reads: "Please note: the IAFE WILL NOT request a third-party to contact you to book your room for our annual convention. We secure room blocks for our attendees straight through the hotel....If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with the IAFE or Paris/Bally's hotels and who tries to book your accommodations, please contact the IAFE office at (800) 516-0313. Do not provide them with any of your personal or payment information."

The 2016 IAFE annual convention is set for November 27-30.

Fair officials at the **Arizona State Fair**, Phoenix, October 7-30, are pleased with the fair's itinerary including a new exhibit called Rock U: The Institute of Rock 'n' Roll. The exhibit includes displays to take visitors on a rock and roll tour throughout the years with listening stations and other multimedia interactive elements.

Of course, fair officials also are bringing back fair favorites such as monster trucks, petting zoo, a variety of musical entertainment and, of course, the midway rides and attractions provided by **Ray Cammack Shows**.

Construction on a new multi-use pavilion at the **California Mid-State Fair**, Paso Robles, was set to begin last month. Three barns, built in the 1950s, will be replaced by a state-of-the-art 65,000 square-foot, multi-use structure that will attach to the current Livestock Pavilion on the west and run all the way to the maintenance yard on the east.

The new pavilion will be used during the annual fair for livestock shows, but also will be used for multiple and diverse events throughout the year. Once completed, the entire complex will provide for 95,000 square-feet of covered exhibit space.

It is set to be complete by the first of June, 2017, in plenty of time for the 2017 California Mid-State Fair set for July 19-30.

The Big Tex Choice Awards winners were announced early last month leading up to the **State Fair of Texas**, Dallas, September 30-October 23.

Out of eight finalists, the panel of judges presented Best Taste to Ruth Hauntz for Fried Jell-O, while Isaac Rouso took the title of Most Creative for his State Fair Cookie Fries.

The Fried Jell-O consisted of the classic cherry-flavored Jell-O in a panko-crusted breading, which was flash-fried and then dusted with powdered sugar. It was then topped with whipped cream and cherry.

The Cookie Fries offered traditional cookie flavors like chocolate chip or sprinkles and was served with strawberry or milk chocolate sauce. They were made to look like crinkled fries and served in a bag similar to fast-food fries.

The **Washington State Fair**, Puyallup,

kicked off last month with added days. The fair will run 21 days this year, September 2-25, compared with last year's dates of September 11-27. The fair is closed on Tuesdays.

Fair officials extended dates to give guests more options to attend as well as to try to ease weekend traffic congestion.

The annual Western Rodeo Parade and Cattle Drive was to occur the second weekend of the fair.

New exhibits this year included "Discover the Dinosaurs," and Superhero Headquarters.

**Funtastic Shows** provides the midway.

State and local leaders hope a \$17 million multipurpose arena will bring new life to the **Utah State Fair Park**, Salt Lake City, and the areas surrounding it.

To keep the state fair where it is or move it has been a hot topic for years now, but after more than a decade of discussions, a groundbreaking is the first sign the event is there to stay.

The fair has been in the same location since 1902. The new arena will seat 18,000 and will be used during the fair as well as year-round.

The anticipated finish date for the arena is July 19, 2017.

The 2016 Utah State Fair ran September 8-18.

New **Fort Bend County Fair**, Rosenberg, Texas, Manager **Sam Magee** was excited about his new role when the fair opened last month. Plans were for him to work with Interim Fair Manager **Cindy Schmidt** for the 2016 fair activities, September 23-October 23, to ensure a smooth transition.

But Magee is not a new member of the industry. For the past 10 years, he served as manager of the Rio Grand Valley Show and Rodeo, Mercedes, Texas, the past five of those years being a very trying time for him. That was when he was diagnosed with stage four kidney cancer with a prognosis of about two years to live.

But, Magee beat the cancer and is today cancer-free.

Magee grew up in Lumberton, Texas, and was a high school football player until he experienced bull riding. He competed in sanctioned Texas High School Rodeos and in the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association.

For several years, he also worked as a law enforcement officer in several Texas towns.

**Cheryl Flood** took over as the full-time director of the **Florida State Fair**, Tampa, at the end of August, after serving as interim since last February when the previous director, Charles Pesano, announced his retirement.

A fifth-generation Floridian, Flood came to the fair from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services where she was first an assistant director of legislative affairs and, then later, the department's director of external affairs.

She is a graduate of the University of Florida's Agricultural Leadership Education program with minors in Agribusiness Management and Sales, Agricultural Law and Agriculture and Natural Resources Ethics and Policy.

The 2017 fair will run February 9-20.





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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

►Obituaries — Page 43 / MarketWatch — Page 44 / Safety — Pages 45-47 / CLASSIFIED — Page 48

## Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk announces new main entrance for 2017

*\$12 million project will complete 10 years of planning*

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — The **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**, fresh off its 2016 Golden Ticket win as Best Seaside Park, announced a \$12 million improvement project for 2017. Concept drawings released reveal a new main entrance and a fresh new look for a section of the Boardwalk between Neptune's Kingdom and Undertow roller coaster.

The project will create an impressive main entrance for the Boardwalk, replacing a narrow walk-



The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has announced that it is constructing a new \$12 million main entrance for 2017. COURTESY SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

way near Neptune's Kingdom. The new entrance will include state-of-the-art ticketing windows, an entrance

plaza, and a fresh new look for several games, concessions and attractions in the adjacent area. Further an-

nouncements about the project will be made in the coming months.

"We're committed to

investing in park improvements that make our com-

► See GATE, page 43

## Cedar Point hotels being readied for longer visitor stays



With 69 additional rooms and various upgrades to be completed for 2017, Cedar Point's Express Hotel (shown in rendering) will emerge from the theme park resort's former Breakers Express. The classic Hotel Breakers will unveil a new six-story tower containing 158 guest rooms for the 2018 season. COURTESY CEDAR POINT

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Aiming to encourage more overnight and extended stays — and more spending — by guests in a Lake Erie resort environment that offers a range of recreational amenities, Cedar Point has announced the expansion and enhancement of its overnight accommodations.

"There's so much more to Cedar Point than most realize," said **Jason McClure**, park vice president and general manager. "No other amusement park can claim a mile-long beach and freshwater lake just steps away from the largest collection of rides on earth."

Improvements and additions to two of the park's lodges are slated for completion in time for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. When the hotel projects are finished, the onsite accommodations inventory will top

1,750 — including 156 cabins and 97 campsites.

Next year, **Breakers Express** will be transformed into Cedar Point's **Express Hotel** — adding 69 new rooms. All guest rooms will feature two queen beds and be completely renovated with new bathrooms and bedding, mini fridges, microwaves and connecting family suites.

In the center of the hotel property, a new splash pad and an outdoor courtyard featuring conversational spaces will be added to the swimming pool and deck area.

Construction on Cedar Point's Express Hotel is well underway and will last through the winter.

**Hotel Breakers**, Cedar Point's signature hotel located next to the newly renamed and under-renovation Cedar Point Shores water park (see story,

► See RESORT, page 43

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## ►GATE

Continued from page 42

munity proud and greatly improve the Boardwalk experience for our guests," said Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk president **Karl Rice**. "The unique character of the Boardwalk will be maintained and improved because nostalgia and history are such an important part of our story."

Fright Walk and Lazer Maze, two of the Boardwalk's most popular attractions, will both get fanciful new entrances. Fright Walk will also get a complete interior makeover, taking advantage of new basement/dungeon space. The spooky walk-through attraction was originally designed and built in 2004 by Boardwalk staff and remains a park favorite.

A number of local contractors including **William S. Bagnall Architects**, **Slatter Construction** and **Nielsen Studios** are working on the project. **Roto**, an Ohio design firm specializing in plans for some of the world's largest theme parks, worked with Boardwalk staff to design the project which will connect the classic Moorish-style of the Coconut Grove building with the more colorful, eclectic style of the Boardwalk.

"This 10-month, \$12 million project has been 10 years in the planning," said

**Kris Reyes**, director of community affairs for the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. "The construction phase is expected to employ nearly 200 local tradespeople and construction workers, and ultimately create 63 new seasonal jobs at the Boardwalk." The Boardwalk is the largest private and youth employer in Santa Cruz County, providing 300 full-time and more than 2,000 seasonal jobs.

The current project is part of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's ongoing effort to improve the experience for visitors approaching the Boardwalk and beach area. Street-side improvements over the past few years include a wider entrance for the Main Parking Lot with a new self-park ticketing system, new park signage and enhancements to Boardwalk Entrances 3 and 5, and new landscaping along Beach Street.

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has a long history of reinvestment in the park and beach area, a business philosophy passed down from **Laurence Canfield** who invested heavily in park improvements while serving as company president from 1952 – 1984. Current Boardwalk president **Karl Rice** is the great-grandson of Laurence Canfield.

The current project is scheduled for completion by Summer 2017.

## ►RESORT

Continued from page 42

page 18), also is growing.

Fresh off of a complete renovation in 2015, the classic beachfront hotel will add a six-story tower containing 158 guest rooms — many configured as connecting family suites. Architecturally, the new tower will echo the beautiful exterior aesthetics of the existing, historic Hotel Breakers lobby and rotunda, built in 1905. A new outdoor pool area will debut alongside the tower.

Construction on the addition began after Labor Day and will continue through next summer, opening for guests in time for the 2018 season.

With the new tower, Hotel Breakers will have a total of 669 rooms, making it one of the largest hotels on the Great Lakes. It has been voted one of the "Top 25 Hotels for Fam-

lies" by readers of TripAdvisor.

Guests who stay at Cedar Point's Express Hotel, Hotel Breakers and the park's three additional properties receive the best benefits. These include early access to the park one hour before the general public, the best deal on park admission tickets and, of course, walking proximity to the park.

Also making its debut in 2017 will be the previously announced **Sports Force Parks at Cedar Point Sports Center**. Located about three miles from Cedar Point, the state-of-the-art youth sporting complex will feature multiple fields for soccer, baseball and lacrosse. It also will provide fun for families who attend tournaments, such as miniature golf, a ropes challenge course, trampoline structures, and food and merchandise.

—Dean Lamanna

## OBITUARIES

### Stephen Swika, Jr., S&S Amusements owner

SCOTT TOWNSHIP, Pa. — **Stephen Swika, Jr.**, 77, of Scott Twp., Pa., owner of Pennsylvania-based **S&S Amusements**, passed away peacefully at home August 19, 2016.



Stephen Swika, Jr.

Born in Carbondale, he was the son of the late Stephen Swika Sr. and Justine Mikloiche Swika. He was a graduate of Blakely High School.

Swika Jr.'s family began in the outdoor amusement industry as a game concession operation. But, in 1957, he and his dad partnered together to form S&S Amusements, broadening the game operation into amusement rides as well.

Today, the show has a large inventory of rides including a new one added this year, the

A.R.M. Vertigo. The show plays from April until October.

Swika Jr. was a member and past president of the **Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association** and served on the board of directors of the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association**. Swika also was a member of the **Showmen's League of America**, the **New York Association of Agricultural Fairs**, the **International Independent Showmen's Association** and was a **NAARSO** and Pennsylvania ride inspector.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jacqueline (Jackie) Swika, who passed away in 2007.

Swika Jr. was respected for his knowledge and expertise in the outdoor amusement industry and played a large part in the implementation of the Pennsylvania Ride Safety Act.

### Maarten van de Ven, KumbaK co-founder

WEERT, The Netherlands — **KumbaK – The Amusement Engineers** announced that its co-founder and executive vice president **Maarten van de Ven** passed away unexpectedly at home on August 16, 2016 at age 56.



Maarten van de Ven

After finishing his studies of Master of Sciences in Industrial Engineering at the University of Technology in Eindhoven, Maarten worked at Philips Electronics and Tulip Computers before starting his career in the amusement industry at **Vekoma Manufacturing**. After the bankruptcy of Vekoma in 2001, Maarten was instrumen-

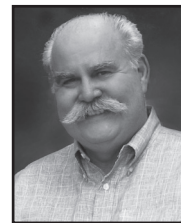
tal in founding and building KumbaK as an engineering and service provider for the amusement industry.

Within the company, Maarten was primarily responsible for finances, procurement and logistics. In the almost 15 years of the existence of KumbaK, he has always been the main contact person for our suppliers and subcontractors. Away from work, Maarten liked to travel and was a connoisseur of good food and drink — the latter skills he enjoyed applying annually to the company Christmas dinner, and which always ensured them to be memorable occasions enjoyed by everyone.

Maarten is survived by a brother and brother-in-law.

### Tom Weber, The Weber Group founder

SELLERSBURG, Ind. - The Weber Group recently announced that it has tragically lost one of their own. On August 14, president **Tom Weber** passed away unexpectedly.



Tom Weber

"Tom and I founded Weber Group together in 1983 as a Design/Build Company. Through Tom's leadership, WGI has become a pathfinder in comprehensive specialty fabrication and a world leader in both design and construction services," said Vice President **Donny Weber**.

Tom was married to Barb, his beloved wife of 39 years. They have two children, Max and Sam, both of whom worked alongside their father at the Weber Group. Tom was thrilled with his three-year-old grandson Henry, and often spoke about putting family first.

"Dad expected excellence which can be seen in Weber's unparalleled quality and craftsmanship," said son and project manager **Max Weber**. "But he was also a very kind and patient teacher to me and our company. As we move forward through this difficult time together, we will honor dad's memory with continued success as a market leader."

"Weber Group was not just a business to dad, it was family," remarked son **Sam Weber**. "He viewed every member of the company as a son or daughter, and treated everyone with dignity and respect. He was a man of principles and always conducted himself, and the business, in a manner he believed to be fair and just."

Tom held a bachelor degree in Architecture from the University of Kentucky and was an avid supporter of the U.K. athletic program. His tenure at Weber Group included over 30 years of experience in design and construction in a variety of environments from multi-family housing and commercial construction to highly branded and themed environments for clients such as **Disney**, **Kennedy Space Center**, **Crayola**, **SeaWorld**, **Lego** and **Great Wolf Lodge**.

Tom was heavily involved in community projects and led annual efforts to support New Directions Housing Corporation, which served low income families in need of home repairs and rental housing. He was also a valued contributor to The Council for Developmental Disabilities, a local organization that provides a variety of programs for people with disabilities.

A memorial service to honor Tom's life was held on August 21st at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Louisville, Ken.



MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 09/14/16	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	25.59	35.35	22.31
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	470.20	494.90	316.79
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	59.94	63.40	48.45
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	65.17	68.36	52.34
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	92.26	120.65	86.25
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DUBAIPAR:UH	DFM	1.65	1.77	0.95
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1181.00	1568.00	1048.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.62	1.84	1.40
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.60	8.93	6.62
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	25.22	25.49	16.18
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.08	15.53	11.99
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	12.64	21.84	11.92
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	6.85	9.93	5.88
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	51.93	62.69	44.04
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	9.15	11.96	7.95
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	442.00	499.50	330.40
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	4.65	7.68	4.46

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

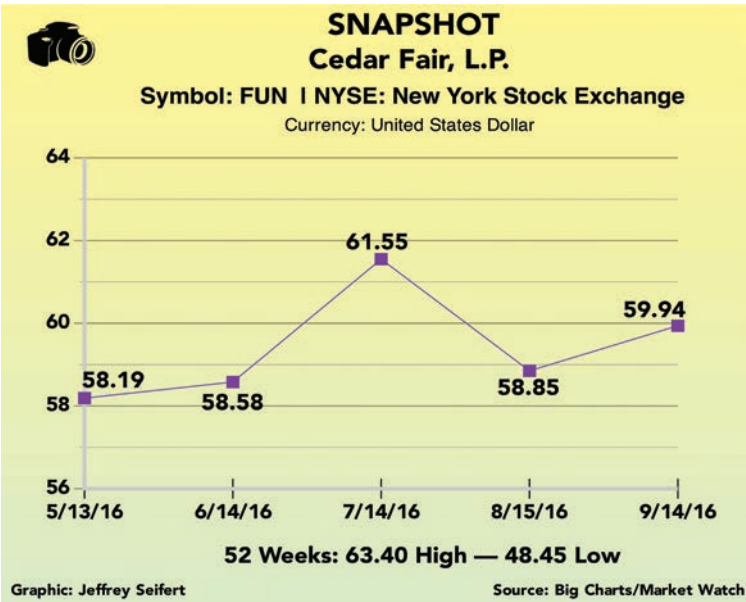
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange  
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 09/12/16	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.399	-\$0.176
Midwest	\$2.376	-\$0.095
Gulf Coast	\$2.256	-\$0.106
Mountain	\$2.489	-\$0.065
West Coast	\$2.553	-\$0.018
California	\$2.756	-\$0.107

CURRENCY

On 09/15/16 \$1 USD =	
0.8903	EURO
0.7575	GBP (British Pound)
102.72	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9754	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3378	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3170	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Haichang Ocean Park sees growth

HONG KONG — **Haichang Ocean Park Holdings Ltd.**, (HK2255), a leading developer and operator of theme parks in China, announced the interim result for the six months ended June 30, 2016.

During the period, the group recorded revenue of approximately RMB663.1 million, representing an approximate 24.6 percent increment compared with the corresponding period of last year. The substantial increase in revenue was attributable to the significant increase both in revenue from park operations and ancillary commercial property sales. Revenue generated from park operations of the group increased by approximately 10.5 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year to approximately RMB501.6 million. Among which the revenue from the non-ticket business considerably increased by 49.7 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year to approximately RMB141.0 million. Innovative business income accounted to RMB22.8 million. The group's gross profit increased by approximately 40.0 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year and consolidated gross profit margin improved by 5 points to 45.3 percent. In addition, the gross profit margin of the group's park operations improved to 47.1 percent, representing an increase of 3 points compared with the corresponding period of last year. After deducting the gains or losses on change in the fair value of investment properties and the effect of the corresponding income tax, the group's core net profit amounted to RMB41.3 million, representing a significant increase of RMB51.8 million compared with the corresponding period of last year.

**Haichang Ocean Park** is currently included as a constituent of the Hang Seng Family of Indexes, and has been included by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) as a constituent of the MSCI Global Small Cap Indexes.

Six Flags announces quarterly cash dividend

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX) announced on August 25 that its board of directors declared its third-quarter cash dividend of \$0.58 per share of common stock. The revised record date is September 6, 2016 and the dividend was payable on September 12, 2016.

In brief...

•LONDON — **London** has won two prestigious accolades at the annual 2016 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. The capital came out on top as Best U.K. City for the sixth year running, and Best U.K. City for Restaurants and Bars for the second consecutive year in the reader-nominated awards ceremony at **Soho's Ham Yard Hotel** on Aug. 31. The awards from the readers of one of the most popular travel magazines in the world comes as recent research from **London & Partners**, the Mayor's official tourism body for London found that last year, overseas visitors made 18.7 million visits to the city's best known cultural institutions, which is 1.8 million more than in 2012. Separate research also reveals that London's booming tourism trade is set to continue post-Brexit, as two thirds of Americans who visited in the last two years said they will definitely return due to a more favorable exchange rate. •[visitlondon.com](#)

•ORLANDO, Fla. — The **Orlando Eye** observation wheel has been rebranded the **Coca-Cola Orlando Eye**. The news came during an official announcement on July 28. An update for the 400-foot tall wheel, located on Orlando's busy International Drive, comes just 14 months after the wheel opened. Owned by **Merlin Entertainments**, the U.K.-based company also operates **Madame Tussauds** wax museum and **SeaLife Aquarium** at the base of the wheel. Details of the naming rights were not released.

•ANAHEIM, Calif. — In early July, the Anaheim City Council voted to give **Disneyland** a tax break of about \$267 million over the next 20 years so the resort can build a luxury hotel on what is now a 25-acre parking lot near the theme park. The tax break was created by the city last year to promote the construction of high-end hotels in the city and calls for a 70 percent break on the city's transient occupancy tax for any hotel rated four-diamonds or above as rated by **AAA** hotel standards. In the council meeting, plans presented by Disney, indicated the new 700-room hotel should meet those standards.

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# Harold Hudson receives inaugural AIMS International Safety Award

## SAFETY

SANDUSKY, Ohio —Harold Hudson was presented with the first AIMS International Safety Award during *Amusement Today's* 2016 Golden Ticket Awards held September 10, at Cedar Point. The award, presented by AIMS International president, Timo Klaus, and AIMS Executive Director, Karen Oertley was created to recognize a person or organization that has made a significant impact or contribution in improving safety in the amusement industry by demonstrating leadership, innovation, and foresight.

In presenting the award, Oertley said, "We were pleased to have received many nominations, all are top candidates for future consideration. One individual stood out, however, as one the most passionate and dedicated safety advocates in the amusement industry. He is a man that has been committed to ensuring the safety of our amusement industry guests and employees throughout his career



AIMS President Timo Klaus (left) and AIMS Executive Director Karen Oertley with Harold Hudson, the first recipient of the AIMS International Safety Award. The award was presented on Sept. 10 during the Golden Ticket Awards event held at the Cedar Point Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio. COURTESY CEDAR POINT

as well as through his work with ASTM in developing safety standards. Harold Hudson is truly a gentleman, scholar and safety icon in the industry and we are so proud to present him with the 2016 AIMS International Safety

Award."

In accepting the award, Harold Hudson remarked, "I am truly honored to receive this first AIMS International Safety Award, especially when I think of the thousands of people AIMS

## About the AIMS International Safety Award

Created in 2016, The **AIMS International Safety Award** will be presented annually to the individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry. With safety as the industry's No. 1 concern for amusement industry guests and employees worldwide, efforts in improving safety are shown in many forms: the design and implementation of new products and technology, the development of safety education programs and training, and by exemplary leadership in influencing others.

Nominations for the AIMS Safety Award can be submitted by individuals within the amusement industry and the winner is selected by a vote of AIMS International's board of directors.

The award will be presented annually during the **Golden Ticket Awards** networking event hosted annually by **Amusement Today**.

has trained at their safety seminar and the thousands upon thousands of people in our parks that are all involved in keeping our guests happy and safe. When I began my industry career as the Corporate Engineer for Six Flags St. Louis, I found more than a job. I found a great family where safety is the No. 1 goal. Safety is a moral obligation as prescribed by our values to make sure our guests are happy, have a good time, and are safe. It's been a great 38 years and I hope my

efforts from the past as well as those in the future warrant this award."

During the presentation, Klaus also announced a scholarship to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of former AIMS president and executive director, Mark Moore. In the spirit of Mark's passion for craftsmanship, the scholarship will be awarded by AIMS to a craftsperson who works with their hands in the amusement industry. Moore was founder of Uremet Corporation.



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## NEWS & NOTES

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### New classes offered at AIMS Seminar

ORLANDO, Fla. — With more than 350 students expected, it's time to sign up for the **2017 AIMS Safety Seminar** and select from over 200 different class offerings that best suit your needs.

In addition to classes covering all aspects of Ride Inspection, Maintenance, Operations and Aquatics, 2017 additions include classes on Terrorism, Active Shooter, Security (by venue type), FECs, Climbing Walls, ASTM updates, TPM (Total Productive Maintenance), Guest Behaviors, Ride Accessibility, and more. Tuition is \$595 and includes all class materials, two daily snack breaks and lunch, plus an opening reception.

Testing and AIMS Certifications offered at the seminar include Maintenance, Operations and Ride Inspection and Aquatics. Attendees can register for added certification in CPO (Certified Pool Operator), S.A.V.E. (Security, Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone - approved through FEMA & The Department of Homeland Security & Operations), and OSHA 10. Certificates in Security, Waterpark, Leadership, Carnival and ASTM F770 are available.

IAAPA provides five scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of Alan Ramsay. Application forms can be found at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org). OABA offers four scholarships to OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. Contact [oaba@oaba.org](mailto:oaba@oaba.org) for more information. AIMS is offering a new scholarship for a craftsman working in the industry in memory of Mark Moore, former AIMS board president and executive director. For more information contact [info@aimsintl.org](mailto:info@aimsintl.org).

The AIMS Safety Seminar will be held January 8-13, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld in Orlando.

Visit [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org) for complete information.

### AIMS Intl. board of directors meet at Cedar Point during 2016 Golden Ticket Awards



The AIMS International board of directors gathered after the Golden Ticket Awards to congratulate AIMS' 2016 Safety Award recipient, Harold Hudson. Shown here left to right are: Andreas Tanzer; Karen Oertley, AIMS executive director; Roger Berry; Jim Seay; Franceen Gonzales; Jeffrey Savelesky; Harold Hudson; Rick Achard; Ryon Yemm; Patty Sullivan; Linda Freeman; Timo Klaus. Board members not pictured were Tim Viox, Mike Withers, Tony Claassen and George Tso. The Golden Ticket Awards are presented each year by *Amusement Today*. This year's event was hosted by Cedar Point.

AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.

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# Cushman unveils new Hauler utility vehicle at Sedgwick County Zoo

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Cushman, a Textron Specialized Vehicles brand, recently introduced a new truck-inspired line of Hauler utility vehicles that are designed to effortlessly cut the task list down to size. The new vehicles are now being offered to amusement facilities to assist in their daily park service needs. The practically designed new Hauler 1200, Hauler 1200X, Hauler PRO and the Hauler PRO-X offer more payload, a larger bed, and affordable accessories.

## FACILITY SERVICES

Cushman vehicles are designed and manufactured by Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc., a Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) company.

The new truck-inspired Hauler can be customized to include either a sound-dampening 12-cubic-foot durable roto-molded polyethylene bed, or the upgraded 15-cubic-foot fully aluminum bed for extra space. The standard poly bed includes integrated divider slots to allow for increased organization and customizable bed storage. The aluminum bed features an L-track bed system that can accommodate hooks and brackets for convenient tie-down locations and space-saving accessories.

Versatility extends beyond the bed in the new Hauler design. New features include:

- Optional power dump for heavy lifting;
- A standard rear hitch receiver to help crews tow whatever the day demands;
- Upgraded premium tires that provide improved traction;
- Optional 12V or USB outlets, to ensure tablets and smartphones don't lose power.

All Hauler PRO and Hauler PRO-X models feature a powerful 72-volt AC electric drive that can go up to 50 miles on a single charge. Additionally, the Hauler PRO can be equipped with an optional IntelliBrake system. The patented system

encompasses two technologies: a motor brake that automatically slows the vehicle when traveling up or down steep grades and a parking brake that automatically engages when the vehicle stops.

•cushman.com



Cushman has announced its all new Hauler utility vehicle line to assist amusement facilities with their daily park services. Here, the vehicle line is seen in operation at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas.  
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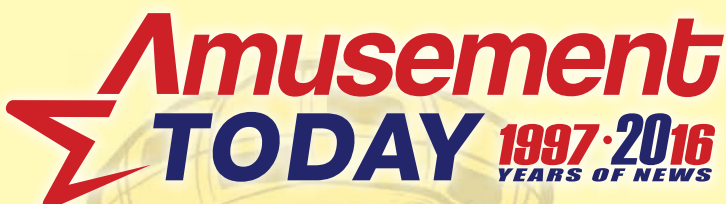
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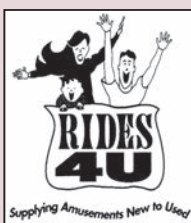
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\* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine

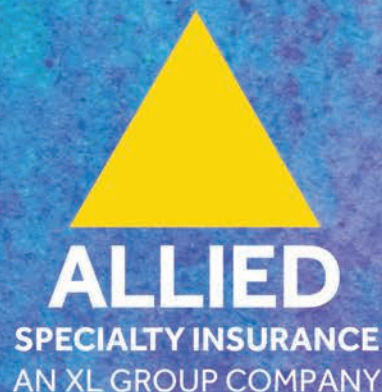


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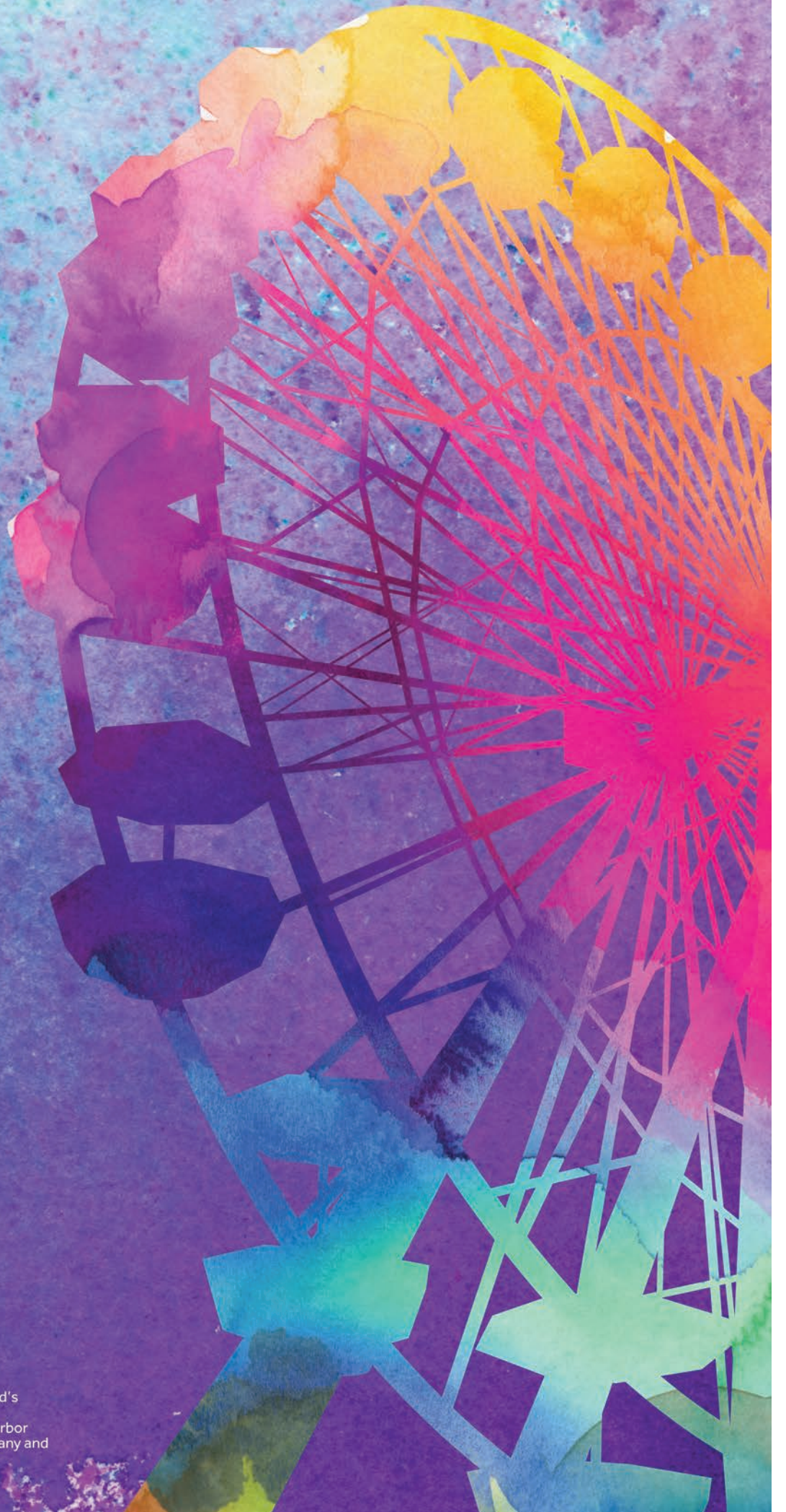
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